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# جوردان تايمز يومية المحمد تصدر يالمحقيزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي،

### Palestinians lack medical care in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The U.N. agency caring for Palestinian refugees, said on Wednesday more than 300,000 Palestinians in Lebanon are not getting sufficient medical care because of using costs. Lionnel Brisson, head of UNRWA's mission in Lebanon, also said the agency would continue to provide essential services to some three million Palestinian refugees in the Middle East for at least five more years. The main reason behind the decline in services to the Lebanon refugees was that fees charged by doctors under contract to the agency have risen 50 per cent over 1994. Mr. Brisson said.
"There is a problem pertaining to the provision of medical services to Palestinians in Lebanon ... one can bear such a rise in costs," Mr. Brisson told reporters in Beirut after meeting Lebancse Foreign Ministry officials. "We strive to find the necessary funds to deal with the subject to medical services which is a grave matter from a humanitarian point of view, no case faced by any family to medicate its child can be ignored," Mr. Brisson added.

Volume 19 Number 5892

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 13-14, 1995, THUALQ'EDAH 13-14, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

# Kabariti, U.S. senator hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabario on Wednesday re-Ceived American Senator Hank Brown (Republican-Colorado) and discussed with him issues of concern to Jorh h emphasis on the Middle East peace process. Mr. Kabariti
peace process. Mr. Kabariti
peace process. Mr. Kabariti
dan's stand on the process
and thanked the American hold Senate for endorsing the write-off of Jordanian debts to the U.S. Mr. Brown commended His Majesty King Hussein's leadership and key role in the peace process.

### Panel to support Jerusalem meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Assembly for the Committee to Support the Steadfastness of Jerusalem met Wednesday under the cbairmansbip of Assem Gbosheb and discussed its Syliton kills 1994 financial and adminisself after trative reports. The assembly discussed means to continue collecting funds for the occupied city to support the stead-fastness of its Palestinian inhabitants and preserve its Arab and Islamic character. The committee has thus far colleced JD 170,683.

### .... Mass trial opens in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — The mass trial of 42 people charged with trying to overthrow the Egyptian government opened in the high military court here on Wednesday. The fundamentalists, who belong to tbe outlawed Talach Al Fatah, were arrested in De-. . . . cember in a sweep of Cairo, ... Alexandria and the northern Nile Delta. The group is the was one of the main armed - miss militant organisations in Egypt in the 1980s and was tesponsible for the 1981 assassination of former President Anwar Al Sadat. Two of the defendants are accused of the murder of a policeman and two Coptic Christians in - an armed attack on a jewellers store in February 1994. Others are charged with possessing arms and ammunition and planning attacks on policemen and telephone networks. All face charges of Blandford als belonging to an illegal organisation almost a legal organisation ing the government.

### Iragi minister ends Qatar visit

...arquesoi

DOHA (R) - Iraqi Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad cut short a visit to Qatar on Wednesday to attend a cabinet meeting at home, Iraqi diplomats in Doba said. Mr. Jawad's four-day Qatar official visit was due to end on Wednesday but be had planned to stay an extra two days. The diplomats said he was the second senior Baghdad official to visit a Gulf Arab state in as many months. They gave no further details about his reasons for leaving. Diplomats at the U.N. said on Tuesday that Iraq had shown interest in a limited oil sale deal for the first time since Gulf war sanctions that have blocked its oil exports.

### Top poets blast Iragi decision

CAIRO (AP) — Two promnent traci poets stripped of heir citizenship for taking part in a cultural event in audi Arabia called the deciion irrational and despicble. Iraq revoked the itizenship of Mohammad 1ahdi Al Jawahri and Abdul Vahab Al Bayati after they articipated in the Janadirva leritage and Cultural Festivl last month. Another wri-: r, Saad Al Bazzaz, also was ripped of his citizenship for cending the festival, which as sponsored by Saudi rown Prince Abdullah. This decision is weird and spicable," Mr. Jawahri, 94, ald the Egyptian weekly lagazine Al Mousawar. Mr. ayati, 68, described the desion as 'hasty, irrational nd unreasonable."

# PNA orders legislation of guns; militants say no

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — In a widening crackdown, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat sent militants an ultimatum: register all guns by May I1 or police will collect them by force.

Hamas, the largest opposioon group, said its fighters would not yield their weapons while Israeli troops remained in the Gaza Strip.

The sharp exchange increased fears of civil war be-tween the militants and the PLO, which has ruled the autonomous areas of Gaza

and Jericho for II months. Tensions were high on the street, with PLO police quick to draw weapons. Three plainclothes security men pulled over a Western reporter riding in a taxi Wednesday, waving assault rifles as they asked for identification. Mr. Arafat also called on

Jordan to gag Hamas by preventing the group from issuing statements from Am-

"It is time for the Jordanian authorities to find a solution to this problem," Mr. Arafat's office said.

Hamas issued a statement in Amman Tuesday accusing Mr. Arafat of "playing with fire," after the Palestinian leader ordered the disarmament of militants.

Mr. Arafat's office said: We have received high-level assurances that the authorities will take action to prevent these statements.

'So we are suprised to note that Hamas has again issued a statement attacking the Israel and the United States.

Paleslinian Authority and fomenting inter-Palestinian strife over the measures the authority has taken to safeguard security.

It charged the Hamas leadership also gave orders and distributed finance from Am-

We ask the Jordanian government wbether it would allow Hamas to have stocks of explosives and arms in Jordan," the office added.

Mr. Arafat's forces have arrested more than 200 activists from the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups this week, after they claimed responsibility for two suicide bombings Sunday that killed seven Israeli soldiers and an Amer-

Palestinian Attorney General Khaled Kidra, said 35 Palesonians are to stand trial before a secret military tribunal. He said some of the defendants are militants and others suspected collaborators with Israel. Two Islamic Jihad activists were convicted by the court this week and sentenced to 15 years and life respectively.

"We remain committed to the peace we signed despite all the problems," Mr. Arafat

But despite indications the crackdown was more serious than past efforts, there was deepening gloom in Israel and growing support for the opposition's call to stop talks with the PLO.

Militants have killed 66 people since October. Mr. Arafat, under pressure from ordered similar roundups after earlier attacks. But they ended with the activists being released, prompting concern that the current campaign would be no different.

"One thing is clear ... they won't dismantle Hamas or prevent them from killing Jews," Benjamin Netanyahu, the opposition Likud Party leader, told a special session of parliament Wednesday (see separate story).

Nearly all those arrested this week have been midlevel activists, not underground military leaders. Palesonian sources said most have also been released, with only about 50 still in custody. The gun-registration drive received little initial attention

Wednesday, with one brief announcement at midnight on PLO-run television. Brigadier General Ghazi Jabali, Gaza City's police chief, said in a statemenr that "rough measures will be taken against those who do

not give up their arms." As part of the crackdown, Arafat opponents will be prohibited from forming paramilitary groups, only his security forces will be allowed to carry automatic rifles and heavy weapons and handguns will be licensed only after a security check, he

Palestinian police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no one has yet offered to turn in

Justice Minister Freih Abu



# Rabin rejects party calls to send troops into Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Wednesday rejected demands from deputies in his ruling Labour Party to send troops into the Gaza Strip to stamp out militants.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Israel will bar entry of all Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the first part of the seven-day Jewish holiday of Passover.

Mr. Shahal told reporters the full closure would be imposed from Thursday afternoon until Sunday, April 16, police spokesman Eric Bar-

Chen told Reuters. Mr. Bar-Chen quoted Mr. Shahal telling reporters on a tour of a central Israel police station "For the time being the announcement is the closure will begin on the eve of the holiday, on Thursday afternoon, until Sunday."

The spokesman said Mr. Shahal intended to urge Mr. Rabin to extend the closure to the end of the holiday. Passover lasts seven days in

Israel last imposed a full entry ban after two suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis near Tel Aviv. Closures put heavy economic strain on Palestinians, tens of

thousands of whom depend on menial jobs in Israel. Israel had somewhat eased the Janaury ban recently but thousands of Palestinians were still prevented from reaching jobs.

Mr. Rabin told a party

meeting at the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, it was unrealistic to think hardline groups could be wiped out easily after two suicide bombers killed seven Israeli soldiers and an American woman and wounded more than 50 people on Sunday.

Those who think (the soldiers) would be enough to pinpoint Islamic Jihad or Hamas activists, are making a big mistake. If we could hve done it, we would have already liquidated them," said Rabin.

He also rejected calls to suspend autonomy talks with the Palestine Liberatin Organisation (PLO) "Slowing negotiations would only boost terrorism and reduce opportunities for a settlement," Mr. Rabin said.

"It is a long and painful war. We have to grit our teeth."

A group of six deputies from Mr. Rabin's party said he should take "draconian measures" against activists from Islamic Jihad and the

ment Hamas. The two groups claimed responsibility for the two attacks near the Kfar Darom

Islamic Resistance Move-

and Netzarim settlements. Housing Minister Be-nyamin Ben Eliezer urged Mr. Rabin to suspend talks with the Palestinians "while Yasser Arafat is not in complete control of the situation'

in Gaza. Mr. Rabin said it was wrong to link the start of suicide attacks to the Oslo peace accords, which led to Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip.

The phenomenon of suicide attacks started in April 1993 with a suicide carbomb explosion in northern Israel. At that time, nobody knew the accords would be agreed with the PLO in Oslo," he added.

He said there had been 27 suicide attacks, or attempted attacks, since April 1993 but the number of Israelis killed in the territories had dropped in 1994 compared with the previous year.

"In 1993, 21 people were killed in the Gaza Strip against 10 in 1994, including eight soldiers. In the West Bank, the death toll has gone

(Continued on page 7)



received upon return home by deputy prime Minister of State Mohammad Abu Oleim minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh (third from (Petra photo)

Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker returned home on right), Minister of State for Prime Ministry Wednesday from London after accompanying Affairs Ibrahim Izzedine (right), Minister of His Majesty King Hussein on visits to France, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environ-the United States and Canada. Sharif Zeid was ment Nader Thuheirat (second from left) and

## Regent meets Russian official

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday received Abdullakh Mikitaev, an advisor to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and director of Moscow's Department of Citizenship affairs. The Regent and the Russian envoy discussed Jordanian-Russian relanons and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by the King's advisor Yanal Hikmat.

Mr. Mikitaev said Wednesday he was here on a visit to familiarise Jordanian officials on Russia's nationality laws (see page 3)

### Musa slams France drops drive to lift 'weak' U.N. nuclear

promise

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Wednesday slam-med a U.N. resolution prom-ising help to countries threatened by nuclear weapons as weak and little more than empty words.
"The U.N. resolution is

weak and a disappointment to the non-nuclear nations and it is largely just ver-biage," Mr. Musa told journalists after meetings with President Hosni Mubarak.

the root of the matter. We are not happy with it and don't see that it represents any step forward," he added. The U.N. Security Council on Tuesday adopted a resolu-

tion promising "technical, medical, scientific or humanitarian assistance" to nonnuclear states belonging to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) that are attacked or threatened by nuclear (arms see inside). The measure was similar to

individual promises made last week by each of the "big five" nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain.

The resolution also calls on "all nations to pursue in good faith" negotiations on "a treaty for general and complete disarmament under strict and effective interenatioal control."

Developming nacions had insisted in the debate on the resolution that nuclear powers must work harder towards disarmament to gain their agreement to an unlimited extension of the NPT.
Th U.N. confernce on NPT

renewal will begin Monday in New York and last until May 12.

A senior official in the Egyptian foreign ministry, Mohamoud Karam, said Monday that the non-aligned nations will ask the major powers for a timetable for elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

Egypt says it will refuse an unlimited extension of the NPT unless Israeli joins the other 170 members states belonging to the pact.

But Israel, which has never confirmed Western estimates that it has 200 nuclear warheads, has refused citing its security concerns.

Cairo has called for a limited renewal to be reexamined every five years.

The five nuclear states China, France, Russia, Britain and the United States presented the resoloution for a vote less tban a week before the more than 170 parties to the NPT hold their review and extension conference to determine the fate of the treaty.

The assurances by the five and the Security Council on behalf of the international community are considered by many parties to the treaty as crucial if the NPT is to be extended indefinitely, Labour Party (PKK) camps

# sanctions against Iraq presentation in New York

PARIS (Agencies) — France said Wednesdayi it was too soon to lift a four-year-old embargo against Iraq, following a report by a United Nations are monitoring Nations arms monitoring commission that Baghdad had not fully disclosed its biological weapons potential.

French foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said "the time has not come to debate" the lifting of the oil embargo at an upcoming meeting of the U.N. Security Council, adding that France would reaffirm its support for the efforts of the U.N. special commission (UNSCOM) and

its chairman, Rolf Ekeus. The UNSCOM report presented to the Security Council Monday said there was a high risk that undisclosed materials purchased by Baghdad were intended to make

biological weapons. The report put an end to Iraqi hopes of seeing a lifting of the U.N. oil embargo imposed on it afrer the 1991 Gulf war.

France, Russia and China had recently announced they would seek lifting of the embargo as soon as Iraq had fully complied with Security Council resolutions.

Washington and London want to maintain the embargo, which is directly linked to Mr. Duque referred to the larer on Wednesday of the 40-page report by Mr. Rolf "France will note that given the deficiencies reg-istered by Ekeus in the biolo-

gical field this is not the time to debate (an easing of sanctions," Mr. Duque told reporters. The document dismisses Iraq's claim that it had important large quantities of biolo-gical materials for hospital

laboratories. Mr. Ekeus also reported larger amounts than in his previous reports and there was a high risk they had been purchased for biological

France, Iraq's largest Western creditor, has been pressing for months for a gradual easing of sanctions.

Oil sale deal

Iraq has shown interest in a promised limited oil sale deal for the first time, offering amendments 10 a U.S.-British draft resolution, diplomats said.

But envoys were not certain if the Iraqi proposals meant Baghdad would eventually accept a deal or was trying to delay the draft resolution. Some of the amendments, they said, would be

One amendment asks for \$2 billion in sales over 90 days rather than the \$1 billion in the original draft proposed by Argentina, Britain, the

United States and Oman. This amount would come close to letting oil flow freely and would probably be rejected, the envosy said. No date has been set for a council vote on the deal,

which is not expected until next week at the earliest. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, in New York this week, rejected the U.S.-British draft but said be solution if it had radical

changes. Iraq, however, is cautious in approving any limited oil sale deal if it interferes with getting sanctions on oil ex-

ports lifred entirely. The limited oil sale deal is separate from the lifting of the oil and is intended to raise money for needed food and medical supplies for Iraq. Under this plan — an up-date of a similar one first approved by the Security Council in 1991 but rejected by Iran — Baghdad would still have to pay up to 30 per cent of the proceeds into a U.N. reparations fund while additional sums would go to meet other cosis stemming

(Continued on page 7)

### unacceptable to the sponsors. U.S. urges respect for Kurds as Ankara says 82 rebels killed

ANKARA (Agencies) -The Turkish army kept up its attack on Kurdish rebels in southeast Turkey, killing 82 of them Wednesday in one of the bloodiest days yet in the month-old offensive.

The most dead were reported in Tunceli province where about 20,000 Turkish troops, backed up with jetfighters, have been cracking down on the rebels, who have been fighting since 1984 for autonomy. Anatolia news agency said 75 rebels were killed in a single operation in

the mountains of Tunceli. Seven more rebels died in separate clashes in Tunceli, Batman, Diyarbakir and Sirnak provinces, the regional governor's office said. Four soldiers were reported killed.

Reports of the clashes came as a top U.S. official appealed here for more respect for Kurdish people. The remarks by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott was the latest expression of Washington's growing uneasiness over Turkey's attempts to solve its Kurdish problem with military mea-

The fighting in southeast Turkey has claimed more than 15,000 lives since 1984. But it has been Turkey's latest military offensive launched last month inside north Iraq to wipe out Kurdish-

used for hit and run attacks that has particularly disturbed Western allies.

The United States wants Turkey to limit the operalion's scope and duration. It is also concerned over human rights abuses as Turkey's military cracks down on Kurdish violence. Congress has frozen 10 per cent of Tur-key's \$365 million in U.S. military aid.

Turkey has 12 million Kurds. They are banned from using their language in broadcasting or education.

Mr. Talbott. summing up his talks with Turkish officials, told a news conference that he emphasised that a political system which gives all citizens full rights were critical to the stability of a

state. "Wherever they live it is our view that Kurds like members of every other cultural, religious or ethnic group deserve to be treated with respect. deserve to have their human rights and civil rights respected by the govemment of whatever state they live in." Mr. Talbott

said. Mr. Talbott said Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu had again pledged that the push against the Kurds, now in its 24th day, was limited in

duration and scope. But he dodged the question when asked how long Turkish leaders told him the operation would last. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said last week he hoped for official notification soon of a date for a withdraw-

"Prime Minister Ciller and Foreign Minister Inonu used the occasion of our talks here yesterday to reiterate the commitment, the assurance that (the operation)... will be limited both in duration and

'We were glad to hear that reiteration and...we attach considerable to it," Mr. Talboti told journalists after meeting human rights activists and before meeting military brass. He was no more specific than

that. Mr. Talbott said the United States was also concerned about the safety of the local population in northern Iran and received assurances from the Turkish government about the matter.

"The...issue is that the human rights of the people living in northern Iraq be respected and...civilian casualties be kept to an absolute minimum, one hopes to zero if at all possible," he added.

Local Iraqi Kurds claimed numbers of killings and injuries during village raids by the army.

Baghdad is angry with Ankara for its incursion into northern Iraq.

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

China, Israel sign cooperation accords

BELIING (AFP) — Israel and China have signed five

agreements aimed at boosting economic cooperation and

trade between the two countries, which established di-

# **Bahrain: Unrest** will be quashed

MANAMA (Agencies) — The Bahrain government gave notice on Wednesday that violence, terrorism and sabotage in the Gulf island state will be crushed.

The official Gulf News Agency quoted Interior Miniter Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifa as telling the Shura (consultative) council that "acts of violence, sabotage and terrorism will end and will he quashed."

His remarks coincided with a statement by his ministry that 11 suspects accused of murdering a policeman in a village south of the capital Manama was to stand trial before the State Security Court on Wednesday.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said the Bahrainis were accused of killing 34year-old Ibrahim Rasbid Al Saidt last month near Nuwaidrat village, [0] kilometres south of Manama.

The suspects were accused of involvement in other violent acts, said the spokesman. quoted by local newspapers. He gave no details.

Sheikh Mohammad said an "extremist religious organisation" was hehind the unrest that erupted in Bahrain last December.

The news agency said he fold the appointed shura council the situation was stable and his ministry was dealing with riots with "patience and self-control.

Sheikh Mohammad said the sabotage and other violence was not spontaneous and accused an "external party organisation that is backed hy a foreign power" of heing hehind the religious organisation he said planned the un-

He did not name the party or foreign power.

Diplomats outside Bahrain said he was apparently referring to the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, an exiled Shiite Muslim group

hy fax from offices in Beirnt and London.

The diplomats said Bahraini officials privately see Iranian involvement hiit they have not openly accused

Residents said on Wednesday that profests appeared to have ahated in the past week amid tight security.

Among minor protests and arson attacks was the hurning on Monday night of a shop on the main road to Sitra. Bahrain's third largest island. At least 1tt civilians and

three policemen have been reported killed and hundreds arrested in the protests demanding the release of political prisoners and restoration of parliament, dissolved

### Philippine advisory

The Philippines warned its nationals Wednesday against travelling to Bahrain because of the unrest there. President Fidel Ramos announced.

The advisory would not effect the estimated 25,000 Filipinos already working in

Mr. Ramos said the advisory was issued because there are elements rioting to oust the government, "We condemn terrorism, violence and extremism here and in all parts of the world," be said.

The advisory was issued despite signs that unrest is ehbing. The disorders have heen hlamed on mainly poor Shiite Muslims, have heen agitating for the restoration of parliament, which was suspended in 1975, and for more

Bahrain's ruler, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, said in an interview with the Sandi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat that the agitation was the work of "parties who care about

sparking revolutions. The newspaper said Iran, whose population is overthat has been fanning dissent whelmingly Shiite, would be with leaflets sent to residents hlamed for the unrest.

### Rushdie supporters welcome EU offer but want more

LONDON (AFP) - An It said such an arrangeoffer by the European Union ment would also have to (EUI to increase trade with for safety for British author Salman Rushdie was welcome hut did not go far enough. Rushdie supporters said here Tues-

Tehran issued an edict against Mr. Rushdie six wears ago because it indged his 1989 novel. The Satanic Verses, to be blasphemous to

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in Luxembourg Monday EU foreign ministers had agreed to offer Tehran increased trade links in exchange for a commitment to initiate no action against the author anywhere in the world.

However, Mr. Juppe's comments appeared somewhat at odds with reports in the British press suggesting that the EU was seeking merely the creation of a sort of fatwa-free zone within the 15-member union, inside which Iran would guarantee not to kill Mr. Rushdie.

The London-based International Rushdie Detence Committee said in a statement here Tuesday that the EU initiative "marks a major step forward in our six-year campaign.

But it added that any EU agreement with Iran would have to include an Iranian promise not to take action against Mr. Rushdie anywhere, in other words, cancellation of the fatwa.

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guarantee safety "for all all associates who are also threatened," including Rushdie's publishers and translators, some of whom have

heen targetted. And, said the statement, it would require a "monitoring period of hetween one and

two years to gauge Iran's commitment to the ceaselire before any upgrading of EU relations with Iran. In Luxembourg Mr. Rushdie welcomed the EU deer-

sion to ask Iran to not carry out in Europe its death sentence against him. But he said the EU appeal should extend heyond European territory. Their instruction that the

EU should open negotiations with the Iranian authorities. at the bighest level... marks a major step forward." Mr. Rushdie said in a statement faxed to news agencies.

Mr. Rushdie urged "an undertaking by the Iranian government that it will take no action, anywhere," with the word "anywhere" under-

He also said that the satety of all others named in the fatwa should be guaranteed. and that the agreement should be monitored for two years before there was any upgrading of relations between Iran and the EU.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said the plan "ottered a real prospect for a break-

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KURDISH 'PARLIAMENT:' A traditionally clad Kurdish hostess tries to organise the chaotic conference at the Hague on Wednesday as west European Kurds meet to form a Kurdish Parliament-in-exile. The parliament is comprised

mainly of members of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party fighting for a Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey. The parliament will not have a permanent base (AFP photo)

# U.S. credits PLO steps against militants

WASHINGTON (Agencies) The Clinton administration credited Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Tuesday with taking concrete steps to stop extremist in Gaza and understanding the peace pro-

cess is at risk. Noting that some 150 suspected militants were rounded up in a two-day sweep, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said: "The Palestinian Authority obviously bas taken action.

But the U.S. official also said the Palestice Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman and the ruling authority in Gaza would be held responsible for making "very effort" to solve the two suicide bus bombings Sunday that killed seven Israelis and a New Jersey woman.

"He understands that if the peace process is to go forward successfully, those who control Palestinian institutions in Gaza and Jericho bave to have a commitment to the rule of law and to stopping the terrorism that has been so prevalent of late," Mr. Burns said, read-

ing a prepared statement. Overall, the State Departamounted to a mildly positive review of Mr. Arafat and the PNA in their pursuit of militants. On Monday, the new U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, said "we are not satisfied" with Mr. Arafat's efforts so far. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called on the PLO chairman last month in

Gaza to publicise the strong U.S. interest in having suspects disarmed and arrested. Mr. Christopher made the same point in a telephone conversation with him Sunday after the bombings. Even so, the wide-scale

arrests raised some concern that legal procedures could be short-circuited. "Obvious-ly," Mr. Burns said, "the establishment of the rule of law, including respect for human rights, is a very important element in the development of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and in Jericho, and in fact, in the creation of Palestinian institutions."

Palestinian groups opposed to the PLO's recognition of Israel have vowed to keep up their attacks. The 5,000 Jews who live in Gaza are a principal target. The settlements there and

on the West Bank "are a problem in the peace process." Mr. Burns said. "That's obvious," he said. Following is a USIA report on the State Department

Mr. Burns emi the Palestinian Authority is responsible for taking "concrete steps to effectively preempt and to prevent terrorist acts" in Gaza and Jericho by arresting and prosecuting those who advocate and practice violence.

Both Secretary of State Christopher, in his March meeting with Mr. Arafat in Gaza, and Vice President Al Gore, in his subsequent meeting with Mr. Arafat in Jericho, "made a very strong case" that the Palestinian Authority had to take tough measures against terrorism, Mr. Burns said. The secretary followed up directly after the two bombings near Gaza April 9 by calling Mr. Arafat and reinforcing that point.

The Palestinian Authority has taken action, he said, noting there have been over 150 arrests during the past 24 hours in Gaza alone and two lengthy prison terms have been meted out to people convicted of having aided and abetted terrorism or directed

"Chairman Arafat has expressed his commitment to addressing the security concerns of Israel and we very much expect and hope that the Palestinian Authority will continue these efforts," the spokesman said.

"He understands that if the peace process is to go forward successfully, those who tions in Gaza and Jericho have to have a commitment to the rule of law and to stopping the terrorism that has been so prevalent of

States will rely on the Palestinian Authority to investigate the April 9 attack on an Israeli bus that left at least seven people dead, including a young American female student, as well as a suicident bombing against an army jeep that was escorting vans near Gaza, "We'll rely on Chairman Arafat and the other Palestinian officials responsible to make every effort to bring the people responsible for these attacks to justice," he said.

Responding to a question, the spokesman acknowledged that the establishment of the rule of law, including respect for human rights, is a very important element in the development of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and in Jericho.

'We know that Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority are grappling with these issues," he said. "We hope very much that they will pay great attention to human and civil rights of the Palestinian population in Gaza as well as making a strong commitment to deal with the problem of terrorism."

Mr. Burns reiterated the are "a problem" for the peace process. "But it's certainly a problem that the Palestinians and the Israelis have to deal with together under the Declaration of

Mr. Burns said the United Principles," he said.

plomatic relations in 1992, the Israeli embassy said Wednesday. The accords, covering such areas as avoiding double taxation and protecting bilateral investment, were signed during the visit of Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Scocbat. Mr. Scochat arrived in China Friday for an eight-day visit, which has so far included talks with Finance Minister Liu Zhongli, Foreign Trade Minister Wu Yi and Vice Premier Li Lanqing. According to figures released by Israeli embassy, bilateral trade with China soared 63 per ceot last year from 1993, to nearly \$250 million. The agreements included a credit-line accord under which Israeli and Chinese banks will provide support to enterprises setting up joint ventures here. During his meetings, Mr. Scochat urged greater cooperation in the areas of agriculture, irrigation technology, chemicals, telecommunications and computers. Mr. Scochat was scheduled to leave Beijing later Wednesday for a trip to the tourist city of Guilin, before moving on to the southern economic powerhouse of Guangzhou.

### Two Thais deported for eating children's zoo

ment to c

TEL AVIV (AP) - Their goose was cooked. But it was the other devoured delicacies — four goats, 40 parrots, in fact, oearly an entire children's 200 - that got two Thais deported from Israel, officials said. The two Thai men were caught, goose in hand, after they broke into the children's 200 on kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon last Thursday. Kibbutz members had set up an ambush after the animals began mysteriously disappearing, including a favourite pair of love birds. "Wheo we told the children... they were beartbroken," said Rutli Ben-Aroeah, keeper of the communal farm's zoo. The two men told police they sneaked in from the nearby farm where they work and ate the animals," Mr. Ben-Aroeah said. On orders from the magistrates court in the central Israeli city of Netanya, the two men were deported to Thailand on Sunday, said police prosecutor Yehiel Ganon. "We had this zoo for 11 years and have fenced it of a But we never thought anyone would ever eat the animals," Mr. Ben-Aroeah said.

### Morocco to free S. Koreans for \$150,000

SEOUL (AFP) - Morocco bas agreed to release 24 fishermeo of a South Korean trawler seized in February for violating Moroccan territorial waters, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The ministry said the fisbermen and their vessel would be released on Wednesday after the ship's owner promised to pay \$150,000 in fines. The trawler, Atlantic No. 5, had 25 people on board, including nine South Koreans and 16 ethnie Koreans in Chioa, when it was seized off the Morocco-Mauritania border on Feb. 22. The skipper was shot dead when a Moroccan patrol boat opened fire. South Koreans claimed the vessel drifted into Moroccan waters after developing engine trooble. Bot Moroccans said the trawler bad tried to flee despite an order to stop. The incident triggered a diplomatic row between the two nations, prompting South Korean diplomats to file a strong complaint with the Moroccan

### Sudan, Uganda in tit-for-tat expulsions

KHARTOUM (R) - Sudan and Uganda have been involved in a tit-for-tat expulsion of diplomats, Sudao's state-owned television has reported. Uganda on Monday declared Awad Mobammad Hassan, the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Kampala, persona ooo grata and gave him 48 hours to leave, the television reported on Tuesday. quoted Omar Yousif Barido, first under-secretary in Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as saying a Uganda government memorandum seot to the Sudanese embassy io Nairobi said Mr. Hassan had beeo involved in bostile activities incompatible with his duties. He did not provide other details. The televisioo said Mr. Barido summoned Uganda's ambassador to Khartoum, Obite Gama, and served him a notice of the expulsion of Geoffrey Sabiti, the counsellor in the Ugandan embassy in Khartoum, in retaliation. Mr. Barido condemned the Ugandan behaviour saying that the East African country is not serious about improving bilateral relations. He noted that Mr. Hassan's expulsion comes sbortly after the Tripoli declaration in which the two countries committed themselves to working for the normalisation of ties.

### Israelis arrest Palestinian 'double agent'

TEL AVIV (AFP) - The Israeli security service. Shin Beth, has arrested one of its Palestinian agents who was also working for Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority, military sources said Wednesday. Jarar Mobammad Barakat, 26, who faces a military tribunal hearing, was arrested as he rifled secret dossiers for the oames of Palestinian collaborators to pass on to the Palestinian Authority, the sources said. Mr. Barakat, originally from Jenio in the north of the occupied West Bank, joined Sbin Beth at the start of the intifada in 1987 and was considered a collaborator by other Palestinians, they said. Under threats, be fled to Israel with the help of the authorities who settled bim with the mother of bis son, a new Jewisb immigrant from the former Soviet Union. However, be was "turned" by Colonel Jibril Rajjoub, head of Palestinian counter-intelligence, who persuaded him to start working as a double agent in December 1994 at a meeting in the self-rule area of Jericho, the military sources said. The sources said be gave Colonel Rajjoub information about collaborators working for Shin Beth and, during one of his missions for the Palestinians, went to Haifa in North Israel to photograph collaborators living there and unsuccessfully tried to recruit three of

15:30 18:45

22:00

### **Israel flee PNA police** Gazans once jailed in

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Less than a month ago Nasr Al Seifi returned to the self-rule Gaza Strip hoping for a fresh start after six years in Israeli jails. Now he is io hiding again, this time from Palesti-

niao police. Sufian Khater also recently ended a term in an Israeli jail, like many others sentenced to belonging to Hamas or Islamic Jibad militant groups and who are now wanted by the Palestinian

police. Some have gone into hiding amid the biggest security sweep launched by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) since self-rule was launched last May.

"I bave seen too much in Israeli jails, I will not be imprisoned again," said Mr. Seifi who had been due to attend his first session at a vocational training centre for former prisoners the day the police came for bim.

"I was planning to get married, my family had found a bride for me, but now I will

hold everything," he said, speaking at his home. "If the police come for me again, the kids in the neigh-

bourbood will warn us and I will run away again." Mr. Seifi managed to escape in the chaos of the raid and an ensuring clash with Palestinian security

forces. His father and four brothers, two of whom bad been jailed by Israel were arrested. Another brother Bassam is also on the run. Palestinian police launched

their crackdown after Sunday's double suicide bombing in Gaza killed seven Israelis and an American woman. The attacks were elaimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad.

Some 200 members and supporters of the two groups have been rounded up in night raids since Sunday.

"They came for me last night (Monday), but I wasn't home. I knew they would come as they do after every

attack," said a 24-year-old

Islamic Jihad activist, who asked to remain anonymous. Released from Israeli prison last year, he too is now on the run staying away from home and walking around in

groups of at least four. He said he had been held briefly after a Jihad suicidebombing last year near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim killed three soldiers and had to sign a pledge to refrain from any acts against the Palestinian Authority and

In the downtown Shujiya district, Sufian Khater, jailed by Israel for belonging to Hamas had to turn himself in when troops forced open his metal door late Sunday night. His brother, Nasr said they refused to let the police in

were really undercover Israeli agents.
The same fears were voiced by others visited in the night raids and fuelled by rumours that at least three people in Gaza City and the south had been spirited away.

because they were afraid they

The families' reluctance to let the police in triggered Nasr said: "We asked them

to bring the local elder to assure us they were Palestinian police, but they refused, and we refused to open the 'After an hour of banging,

they rammed into our door

with a jeep, and eight men came in and took away Su-He said the family did not know Sufian's whereabouts

and would ask the International Red Cross to locate him if they did not hear from him in 16 days. "Just like in the days of the

Israeli occupation. At Seifi's house, the front door, inside walls and upstairs windows were full of fresh bullet holes, table

lamps were overturned and clothes strewn on the ground. Police said a family member fired first, wounding a Seifi denied the charge.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

De is Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrestricts Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annusciation Te Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. an Catholic Church Tel. Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20 Aqaba 25, Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent. on Orthodox Church Tel. tim Church Tel. 771751. international Church Tel. Evangelical Latheran Church Tel: 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel: 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691. AMMAI The Evangelical Local Church

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology. Temperatures are expected to rise with a chance of showers and winds southeasterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly

WEATHER

Min /Max. temp.

Food Control Centre

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** 

..... 6/25

	Traffic Police
AMMAN:	Public Security Departme
Dr. Farouq Nour 786680	Hotel Complaints
Dr. Jihad Ziyadeh 881148	Price Complaints
Dr. Mukhles Halasa 819220	Water and Sewerage
Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744685	Complaints
Firas pharmacy	Amman Municipality
Ferdows pharmacy 778336	Complaints
Al Ascma pharmacy 637055	Telephone Information
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672	(directory assistance
Al Salam pharmacy 636730	Overseas Calls
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	Central Amman Tele
Shinesam charmacy 637660	Ropairs
Nairoujh pharmacy 623672	Abdali Telephone Re
Najib pharmacy	Jordan Television
	Radio Jordan
RBH):	Water Authority
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743	Jordan Electricity Au-
Al Cude about your	_

ZARQA: Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd ....... 989001 Khalifeh pharmacy ......... 985417 **EMERGENCIES** 

Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 617101 Blood Bank. 775121 Highway Police 896390 ., 661176

897467 . 787111 .. 010230 lephone .. 623101 epairs 661101 773111 .. 774111 .. 680100 The Sina Hospital ... 815615

Electric Power RJ Flight Information .... 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Central Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281A Medical Centre 813813/32 Akileh Maternity, J. Ann. 642441/2 

ARRIVALS meisani Hospital .... University Hospital .... Al-Muasher Hospital ... The Islamic, Abdali .... 84584 Army FMarka 891611/15 Oueen Alia Hospital 602240/50 10:40 10:55 Areal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital

(09)900560

(09)986732

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Iba Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100 .. (02)275555 (02)272275 Princess Haya Hospital .. FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) ..... Aqsba (RJ) ..... Riyadh (RJ) . New Delhi (RJ) ..... Jeddah (add) New York, Amsterdam Cairo, Agaba (RJ) .... Rome (add) (RJ) London, Berlin (RJ) ... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RI

..... Athens, Lamaca (RJ) Other Flights (Terminai 2) Doha (O7)
Shrjah (AH)
Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
Riyadh (SV)
Rome (AZ) Dubai (EK) . Paris, Dan . Cairo (MS) 21:20 Being (ME Amsterdam (KL) 01:E0 DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ)

**Flights** (Terminal 1) 06:45 08:00 11:15 11:40 11:45 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ) 12:00 12:00 . Montreal, Toronto (RJ) .... Largacz, Athens (RJ) 13:00 . Caim Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Beirut (ME)
Damasuc, Doha (Q7)

89:15

Arr. America ... 530 a.m. every Monday Dep. Dammens 7:30 a.m. every Smday Arr. America ... 5:00 p.m. every Smday MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. 160/100 200/ 130 Carrot ..... 180 / 100 350/250 250 / 150 550 / 400 80 / 60 430 / 350 Mulukhia Onion (dry) ..... 550 400 500 / 300 420 / 250 280/ 200 350 / 200 Pepper (hot)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

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# Mr. Scochal was schede. Acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Tarifi, an envoy of Palestine President on to the Southern con Rawabdeh Wednesday meets with Khalid Yasser Arafat (Petra photo) PNA envoy conveys message dren's tour goats, 40 pm. of intent to coordinate on issues

dren's risk bank, 40 pans, AMMAN (Petra) — Khalid Tarifi, an envoy of Palestine dasharm last Thursday by Wednesday conveyed a message to the Jordanian leading a favouring a favouring by the children, they becked the children and the children and the children are children. told the children, the party of the two men told police

The farm, where they work as message to Acting Prime message to Acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Thankerd on Sunday sade We had the 200 for like prime ministry, emphasised that the Palestine manufacture cularly keen on coordinating Koreans for \$150, with the Jordanian related to the peace process with the pur-

and comprehensive peace in the region.

The message addressed to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, contained Mr. Arafat's congratulations to Jordan on His Majesty King Hussein's successful recovery from cancer.

Replaying to the message Mr. Rawabdeh reiterated the Kingdom's determination to pursue coordination with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in all fields.

Meanwhile, a technical committee comprising experts from the ministries of youth in Jordan and the selfAl Hussein Youth City Wednesday to discuss details of a protocol to be signed today on cooperation in youth and sports affairs.

The joint committee was formed Tuesday by Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat and PNA delegation head Azmi Shueibi who had voiced Palestinian desire to benefit from Jordanian expertise in youth and sports.

Mr. Shueibi on Wednesday visited Salt city and inspected the sports facilities at the Prince Abdullah Sports Complex which has been set up on 36 dunums at a cost of JD 1

### secur has agreed to release. pose of attaining a durable part in the Foreign to the state of the st leaves 3 students injured er- Mant tallta portier m fet d when a Morocca come as vila, med the vessional

By Rana Husseini

to the Jordan Times

The had treed to find series AMMAN — The crises that ent 1:::, -::: a 2::. ..... followed a fight between two student factions at the University of Lordan took a new versity of Jordan took a new twist Wednesday when a group of outsiders sneaked tit-for-tatexpulsing into campus and started a fight that left three students and in the uni-

Yesterday's incident came ad the sun the states of amid continued attempts by some in the community leaders to settle the crises that resulted from last Wednesday's ethnie an Attanta a trailize clashes between more than 100 students of Circassian

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had the month and origin and Salti origin. Evewitnesses told the Joron . ... M: 5:: = = dan Times that at 10.30 a.m. Att. Wednesday a group of around nine youths were as :-- spotted at the university square and "looking for circassian students."

"As soon as they spotted the Circassian students nearby they drew their clubs, switehblades and ehains and started running towards them," one eyewitness said. Students at the square

started running away, but the attackers captured two stu-"'They started bealing them with the clubs and chains until the plain clothes

police interfered to break the fight," the evewitness said. As it turned out, a relarive of one of the victims confirmed that her nepbew's father was from Salt while his mother was Circassian.

According to Salt officials.

Wednesday's anackers were youths from seven different

tribes in Salt. Moreover, the officials said that due to a request from the government, the problem must be solved by the university administration. adding that the government requested "that no parties interfere in the case.

Security was tightened up following the incident and security officials prevented non-students from entering the university.

Officials at the university said that only four people were involved in the incident. The officials confirmed that the four were apprehended and "they were not university students and that they have jumped over a

According to the officials, the four suspects were in

police custody. The officials said that two students were injured as a result and were treated at the university elinic then transferred to Jordan University Hospital and they were discharged.

# Visiting Russian official denies mission is to grant nationality

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Russian government official on Wednesday dismissed reports that he was visiting Jordan on a mission to grant Russian citizenship to Jordanians of

Part of the Part o Abdulakh Mikitaev, director of Mossawia tor of Moscow's department of citizenship affairs, said his liarising Jordanian officials on Russian laws that deal citizenship as a matter of routine.

Bergin Control of the "In principle, all citizens of the republics of the former Soviet Union who live outside their bomeland but have roots there are eligible for Russian nationality without prejudice to their present citizenship," Mr. Mikitaev told reporters in an informal brifing at the Russian embas-

cials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Inc. "My talks here with offi-Ministry of Interior deal with this issue, and I familiarised them with the nationality adopted by the Russian government in February 1992," he said

"We are not launching a campaign to grant Russian nationality to anyone; nor are we propagating any return of such people to Russia, he said. "It is up to the individual to decide whether he or she wants Russian nationality and the fulfilment of the requirements would determiend the process.

"It will be unbearable for the Russian Federarion to absorb any massive return' there of people who qualify for Russian nationality under the new law, he said, adding that 45 million to 50 million ex-Soviets live outside their

bomeland. The law, which allows dual nationality, should be seen in a humanitarian context said the Russian ambassador to Jordan, Alexander Saltonov. pointing out that the legislation "does not specify any nationality (of the ex-Soviet republics) or ethnic

minority. "For decades, many people from the Soviet repubiles have not had a chance to visit their homeland, and the new law allows them to do so." added Mr. Mikitaev.

This would apply not only to Chechens, Circassians and Dagestanis who are living outside the former Soviet Union but also everyone with roots in the 15 ex-Soviet republics, he said.

Mr. Mikitaev, who visited Syria before coming here and left for Cairo later Wednesday, said he did not have any figure on Jordanians who trace to their origins to the ex-Soviet republics.

consular officials in the Middle East and review "how our consulates abroad conform with the new laws...

In Syria, he said, he was told that up to 60,000 people live in that country who could qualify for Russian nationality. "This is a figure provided by a Syrian institution and I do not have any Russian esti-

Ambassador Saltonov said meanwhile that two Jordanians of Chechen origin who were captured by Russian forces during the recent Russian military intervention in Chechenya were released. "They have been released

and returned home," said Mr. Saltonov "I have no outstanding official query from the (Jordanian) foreign

ministry," he said.
Mr. Mitikaev's comments on the issue suggested that Jordan had sought European help to secure the release of the two.

Mr. Mitkaev, member of a panel which monitors the human rights situation in Chechenya, said that a delegation representing the Organisation on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) visiting Russian recently had raised the issue of the two Jordanians.

The Russian official, who said was the delegation when the subject was raised. added: "We were told the In Cairo, Mr. Mikitaev will problem has been settled."

### WHAT'S GOING ON

Film entitled "Godzilla 1985" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00

que" (with commentary in Arabic hy Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funun on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

\* Film entitled "Terranova" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

# Tourism surge, transportation weaknesses force ministry to haul in foreign buses

By Amy Henderson Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A lack of transportation for Jordan's everincreasing number of tourists has forced the Ministry of Tonrism to bring fareign buses to the Kingdom to facilitate travel.

According to Ghassan Mufleh, under-secretary at the Ministry of Tourism, the ministry will allow for the lease of up to 50 buses from foreign countries to alleviate transportation shortage this season, especially during the upcoming haj. He expects that the buses would be available within 48 hours of

Cabinet approval.

The Cabinet approved the measure on Tuesday during a The decison was prompted

by an unexpected boom in the local tourism industry following Jordan's October peace agreement with Israel. To date JETT Bus Company is the Kingdom's only tourist transport firm. Its monopoly was officially ended in June of 1994, but until now, the company has enjoyed a de facto monopoly while regulations for transport companies were approved by the Conn-

cil of Ministers last month. (though sublet by JETT), Additional buses would help alleviate pressure on JETT and on travel agents who are pressed to find quality transportation for their clients. JETT's fleet of 150 buses (some of which are committed to regular daily lines) is no longer enough to service the number of tourists entering the Kingdom. Since the beginning of the year, the company has leased 65 buses from local companies, many of which, travel agents claim, do not meet international standards for tourist trans-

Local travel agencies say they are receiving complaints from their clientele about the quality of transportation services from buses other than official JETT buses.

portation.

An American group travelling with NET Tours sent a lengthy complaint to the agency following a tour of Jordan detailing the inade-quacies of a bus (leased by JETT) that it said made for uncomfortable travelling conditions and delays in travel. In short, they said. "The bus was inadequate for tourism." The group claimed that because the bus was unofficial

they were stopped by police four times. The final "insult," said the group, was encountering difficulties cros-sing the border with the bus. The group eventually threatened a stop payment on its check to the agent and demanded 25 per cent of the programme cost or 50 per cent of the bus cost as compensation from the travel

"This is a loss for me," NET Tours owner George Bawab explained. "This group is very important to me they come every year. They send other groups, they tell other people about Jordan. If they tell them something like this — well, nothing compensates for bad word of mouth."

International Traders proprietor Munir Nassar said one group travelling with his agency this week refused to continue their tour of Jordan without a proper tourist bus.

"These groups of unhappy customers will go back and claim (compensation) against their agents, who will claim against us," he continued. But we as agents don't have any recourse against JETT."

Both agents say that the problem, which could have been avoided had it been given serious attention by the government earlier, is not the services JETT provides, but rather the de facto monopoly that it enjoys.

"Fortunately," he said, "we now have a minister who gives serious consideration to these problems and who is pushing hard for arrangements that will alleviate this dire situation."

Both agents agree, that bringing buses from abroad will help alleviate the transport problem to some extent. But the only thing that will solve the problem is to end JETT's monopoly on trans-port and allow other companies to operate.

Last month, the Cabinet approved 18 new transport regulations — of which the primary requirements for any new transport company are a JD 10 million capital and a fleet of at least 50 buses and is waiting final technical specifications and requirements to be approved, which is expected "very soon."

According to Dr. Mufleb, the ministry is currently re-

seven" applications for licenses. He countered criticism of the steep capital requirements saying that anything less would result in low

quality service.
"We also have to remember that the number of buses corresponds of the number of hotel rooms we have and to [tourist] sites' capacity," he said. If everyone decides to open up a transportation service, where would we put everyone? he asked.

While the end to JETT's monopoly is in sight, an end to the transportation crisis for the upcoming season is not so

After adopting technical specifications and approving new company licenses, it could be at least another six months before new companies are in full swing as they still have to purchase vehicles and establish offices which meet the requirements of the new law, which still leaves JETT, travel agencies and the ministry struggling to find creative ways to service tourists.

"We are under pressure," said Mufleh. "This season we have a problem, and there's

# Paediatricians open conference focussing on Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of an international conference on paediatrics which opened at the University of Jordan Wednesday warned that paediatricians of the Arab World were facing major challenge in treating children's diseases and pursuing training after graduating. Abdul Karim Qudah told an audience of nearly 1,000 doctors from Arab and foreign countries gathered at the University of Jordan that infant mortality rates in the Arab World are still high, noting that in Jordan, where strenuous efforts are made to care for infants, the rate stands at 40 deaths for every 1,000 births.

Dr. Qudah blamed politicd crises, lack of proper training for doctors and failure to

stem the spread of infectious but preventable diseases as the main causes for the bigb infant mortality rates.

The three-day conference, which was formally opened by Acting Health Minister Abdul Razzaq Ensour who deputised for his Majesty King Hussein, was organised by the Jordanian Paediatricians Society. The delegates were expected to discuss a wide range of topics related to paediatrics in addition to child care services and problems in Jordan, according to Dr. Qudah who is also society president.

In his opening address to the conference outlined the bealth ministry's services noting that vaccination of children against infectious and deadly diseases has achieved a high rate of coverage in the Kingdom.

Stressing that the protec-tion of human health was not confined solely to the ministry, Dr. Ensour said that the health authorities were giving due ariention to child and mother care in the belief that sound and healthy ehildren are basic elements for a prosperous future.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh addressed the conference noting that the university bad created a special department for paediatries and encouraged research and studies aimed at promoting health care services.

After the opening session Dr. Ensour maugurated a medical exhibition in which major Arab and foreign firms ... ! Towards Better Health

Participants Wednesday attend the opening session of an international conference on paediatrics at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

are displaying up-to-date equipment and drugs used in paediatrics and opened an exhibition of medical books. Held under the theme:

Care for Children," the conference was organised in cooperation with the Federation of Arab Paediatricians Association and the University of Jordan.

# Experts agree on basics to preserve fragile ecosystem around Red Sea

By Cathy King Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Regional cooperation, base-line studies, an environment monitoring system and cooperation between scientists and political managers are necessary to preserve the fragile Ecosystem in and around the Red Sea, participants in a United States Information Service (USIS) Worldnet dialogue via satellite Wednesday

agreed. Integrated development in the Gulf of Aqaba to ensure its sustainability, as well as a parmership between the private and public sectors, should provide an attractive investment climate plus controlling pollution to safeguard endangered corals, said prog-ramme officer for Middle East Programmes of Inter-national Environment and Scientific Affairs at the U.S. State Department Jonathon Margolis.

Mr. Margolis and Ben Mieremet, a scientist and senior policy analyst at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospherie Administra-

tion (NOAA) in Washington answered questions posed by participants in Amman, Cairo and Tel Aviv during the Worldnet dialogue entitled "Environmental Protection of the

Red Sea Area" yesterday. Concerns voiced by participants here and in Tel Aviv included the potential increase of damage to sea life, particularly eoral reefs, in the face of heightened development of the Gulf of Acaba.

"We cannot avoid development. But there must be rules and regulations to make it sustainable and to prevent damage to the environment," Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) President Anis Muasher told the Jor-

Mr. Muasher, a host participant in the Worldnet dialogue, added that he thought it possible to carry out projects related to the port of Aqaba, and increase the capacity for tourists and industrial development while protecting the environment.

"It is possible. It will

and (will incur) expense," he said.

Industry must be kept at least five kilomettes from the shore. At the present time the government will not allow industrial plants to be any closer, and today there are means to export phosphates without the spillage of dust."

In the past, dust pollution caused during the loading and unloading of phosphates and sulphates at the port of Aqaba, has affected the beaches and collected on the reefs.

But Salim Mughrabi of the Marine Science Station in Agaba maintains that while industrial developments are going ahead in the Aqaba region, more protection has been developed through the use of shuriers to prevent the spillage of dust.

One per cent of loaded phosphates used to be spilt. now it has been reduced to 0.1 per cent," Dr. Mughrabi said after the satellite dialogue.

"There has to be a balance between shipping. tourism and industry and

ment. There has been no dumping of sewerage (from the Aqaba side of the gulf) since 1987."

However, he asserted. regional protection needs to be established whereby all parties follow the same code of conduct. Dr. Mughrabi explained

that the Red Sea is naturally low in nutrients, but even treated sewerage contains nutrients that destroy the porosity of coral reefs. Sewerage also encourages the proliferation of algae which grow and smother existing reefs.

Beyond the adverse effects of pollution, Dr. Mughrabi told the Jordan Times, there are problems between political managers and scientists, which need to be overcome to ensure the best possible protection for sea-life.

Mr. Mieremet, who has been involved in the de-. velopment of a concept paper for a binational marine peace park in the northern Gulf of Agaba, told participants the marine park is intended to be multi-functional with swimming, diving and snorkling

areas. He added that there is a potential for an underwater Observatory and a

The proposals for the marine park have. he said, taken into consideration development activities but its primary objective is en-

vironmental protection.
Mr. Margolis referred to the oil spill contingency plan through which Japan, the European Union, Jordan and Egypt are working together to reduce damage to sea-life in the event of a catastrophe.

In parallel, Jordanians and Israelis are mapping out flora and fauna areas needing particular attention if oil were spilled, Mr.

Margolis said.
All the participants agreed upon the need to develop a code of conduct to be adhered to by all the countries bordering the Red Sea, the development of a system to monitor to assess the condition of coral reefs and the pooling of resources to lessen the burden placed on the infrastructure, industries and tourism facilities located on the Red Sea.

# Pest problem in Syria, Lebanon is no threat to Jordan — ministry

Ministry of Agriculture Wednesday moved to allay any fears about the imminent invasion of locusts in Jordan following recent reports about the appearance of the pests in areas along the.

Syrian-Lebanese borders. The director of the ministry's department responsible for the protection of farmlands and plants, Mazen Khasawneh, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency. Petra, that the pests were large grasshoppers which sometimes appear in the Arab areas depending on weather conditions.

He said the Lebanese and the Syrian authorities have already launched a wide scale offensive against the pests. These grasshoppers do not

AMMAN (J.T.) - The constitute any danger to Jordan which would deal with any situation of this kind should it arise, said Mr. Khasawneh.

Referring to earlier reports about the desert locusts in parts of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Khasawneh said that Saudi authorities are continuing their operations to combat the pests, adding that the locusts would normally move to the Horn of Africa, Yemen and Pakistan with the approach of summer.

The agriculture ministry said last February that swarms of desert locusts had invaded northern Saudi Arabia close to the Jordanian border warning of the possibility that the vegetation destroying insects could migrate to Jordan.

The ministry said then that the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAP) and the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locusts in the Middle East have notified Jordan about the situation.

It also announced that operations were under way to fight off the pests and that appropriate precautionary measures were being taken in the Kingdom.

Mr. Khasawneh told Petra that the ministry cadres and specialised teams entrusted with conducting surveillance of the situation were on alert and were providing daily reports from the field.

He stressed that the teams have not reported spotting any locusts in Jordanian territory to date.

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Queen Alia Fund, Bawadi Kevork Khoulmounian, Kan Zaman Rula Atallah, Silsal **Elias Salameh** Garo Sandrouni

Ather Zubaidy, Kan Zaman

Fri., Sat., Sun., 8 am - 11 pm

Date: Thursday, April 13th - Sunday April 16th Hrs.: Thursday, 6-11 pm

5% of all-proceeds go to a local charity

China offers \$60,000 for live Yeti

BEIJING (AFP) - China is offering rewards of up to 500,000 yuan (\$60,000) to

anyone who can show con-

crete evidence that the legen-

dary abominable snowman

exists, a report seen here

Tuesday said. The official China Travel Service (CTS)

announced the scheme at a

meeting in central Hubei pro-

vince's Shennongjia Moun-

tainous region, where several sightings have been reported of the so-called "Wild-Man,"

the Weekly Digest newspaper said. The Shennongjia

CTS braneh is to provide

cooking utensils, oil and

grain to any Chinese or fore-

ign tourists setting off in search of the tall, hairy beast. A top prize of 500,000 yuan

awaits those who bring one in

alive, the report said. A dead

specimen will earn the captor

50,000 yuan, while hunters

who obtain photos or video

recordings of a Wild Man will

receive 30,000 to 40,000 yuan

and those finding hair or

faeces 10.000 yuan, it said.

The offer comes days after a

Chinese scientific expedition

began a new search for the

Wild Man, with team leader

confidence that one would be

captured within three years.

But, in a report in the China

Daily Tuesday, Zhou Guox-

ing, a senior scientist at the

Beijing Museum of Natural

History, threw cold water on

such hopes. saying he

doubted that primitive wild

men could have survived into

Yuan Zhengxin expressing :

# Non-Aligned nations put brakes on 5 major nuclear powers

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Non-Aligned nations said they have no intention of giving the five major nuclear powers a blank check when the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) comes up for renewal later this month.

Six days ahead of the April 17-May 12 conference by the NPT's 175 signatories, more than 100 developing countries said nuclear powers Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States must take additional strides towards nuclear disarmament before non-nuclear nations could vote to extend the treaty indefinitely.

The comments followed Tuesday's passage in the U.N. Security Council of a resolution sponsored by the "big five" pledging help for states that do not have nuclear arms if they are faced with aggression or the threat of aggression from nuclear

Just before the vote, the non-aligned movement managed to have an additional Aligned nations, among them

paragraph included in the resolution urging all states "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control which remains a universal goal.

The resolution adopted unanimously by the 15member Council calls on the U.N. decision-making body to "take urgent action to provide assistance" to any state victim of or threatened by aggression.

The resolution spoke of an investigation into the situation and "appropriate measures to settle the dispute and restore international peace and security.

It did not offer, however, a guarantee of international military mobilisation to aid the victim state. The only measures offered were "technical, medical, scientific or humanitarian assistance." Members of the Non-

security assurances in the form of the resolution." "We therefore believe that more far-reaching action will

be needed to ensure the security of all nations," Mr. Wisnumurti added. Nabil Al Araby of Egypt

denounced the "rush" of the big five to adopt the resolution and said there was "wide scepticism" on its contents among non-aligned and nonnuclear nations.

"As it stands, this resolution is regrettably insufficient in both form and substance," Mr. Al Araby said.

He called for "effective and collective measures" to be taken in case of aggression or threat of aggression. adding that the resolution will not "allay the fears" of smaller countries.

Meanwhile, Egypt Tuesday gave indications that it was weakening in its resolve to oppose any extention of the NPT unless Israel, a regional nuclear power, signs on the treaty.

Ussama Al Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, suggested that the treaty could be renewed with a provision that it he reviewed every five years.



U.S. President Bill Clinton meets with Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan, in the

Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C. (AFP photo)

### **Bhutto wins key pledges from Clinton**

WASHINGTOÑ (Agencies)

— Pakistani Prime Minister Benazîr Bhutto won two key pledges from President Bill Clinton to resolve a pending. sale of jet fighters and to mediate in the volatile Kashmir conflict, as she winds down her t0-day visit to the United States.

At a joint White House conference following their meeting Tuesday, Mr. Clinton said he would "ask Congress to show some flexibility in the Pressler Amendment" to allow Pakistan to get either its 28 F-16 fighter jets or its money back.

Under the 1990 law, the United States is prohibited. from assisting Pakistan until the president can certify that it is not pursuing a nuclear

Pakistan paid \$658 million for the fighter jets, though Ms. Bhutto said other embargoed equipment and warfare aircraft pushed the total figure up to \$1.4 billion.

Under the law, as it now exists, we can not release the equipment. Mr. Clinton said. "I don't think its right for us to keep the money and the equipment. It's not right and I am going to try and find a solution to it."

Despite Mr. Clinton's pledge. White House aides conceded it would be an uphill battle in Congress to allow the delivery of the F-16

"They're not going to get money or planes, anytime

soon." said White House Press Secretary Mike McCur-

Under questioning from reporters. Mr. Clinton insisted that seeking some kind modification of the Pressler Amendment did not mean was weakening his stand extending the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which comes up for renewal later this month.

Mr. Clinton said that he does not favour making an exception for anyone under the law, but the impact of the amendment is directed only against Pakistan, which has pledged not to engage in a regional nuclear arms race.

South Dakota Senator Larry Pressler said he has no intention of modifying his measure, saying it was "the only nuclear non-proliferation policy with

"I find it simply preposterous any proposal that we would transfer even one F-16 to Pakistan without first securing the nation's compliance with the amendment and its signature on the Sen. Pressler said,

Ms. Bhutto, who has asked that the United States either deliver the equipment or return Pakistan's money, said she was "encouraged by my discussions with the president... and the understanding that he has shown for Pakistan's position."

welcome .the Clinton administration's decision to

work with Congress to revise the Pressler Amendment." she said. A senior administration

official said one option under consideration was to sell the airplanes to a third nation and then turn the money over to Pakistan. The official said Thailand has expressed an interest in F-los in the past. Meanwhile Chelsea Clinton apparently made quite an

> impression during her recent visit to South Asia. Ms. Bhutto brought up the 15-year-old's knowledge of Islam when the prime minister met with President Clinton Tuesday at the White

House "We found Chelsea very knowledgeable on Islamic issues," Ms. Bhutto said during a news conference. "I'm delighted to learn from the president that Chelsea is studying Islamic history and has also read our holy book,

the Koran." During an Oval Office photo session earlier in the day, Mr. Clinton told Ms. Bhutto that Chelsea was "a deeply religious child" and that she attends school with

many Muslims. Chelsea accompanied her mother on a 12-day tour of the Indian subcontinent that began last month in Pakistan. In Islamabad they toured a mosque where Chelsea asked detailed questions about the tenets of Islam. She carried her own.copy of the Koran with her on the trip.

the Irish government said

The latest releases Thurs-

day from Ireland's top-

security Portlaoise Prison

would reduce the population

of IRA members imprisoned

in the Irish Republic to about

Dublin officials previously have released 14 IRA in-

Tuesday.

### MOSCOW (AP) - The Bol-

dancers to court

Bolshoi takes

the modern age.

shoi's administration took 14 performers to court, accusing them of staging an illegal strike that caused a ballet to be cancelled for the first time in the theatre's 219-year history. The dancers and musicians appeared on the worldfamous stage on March 10 wearing street clothes instead of Romeo And Juliet costumes. They told the flabbergasted audience they were too upset over the resignation of ballet master Yuri Grigorovich to perform. If Judge Valentina Yemysheva of the Moscow City Court, who is ... trying the case, rules that the strike was indeed illegal, the performers — including several stars like prima ballerina Natalia Bessmertnova, Grigorovich's wife - might technically be fired. In their opening statements, attorneys for the dancers said they intended to prove that the protest was a spontaneous outburst of artistic temperaments caused by "a negative" moral atmosphere" created by the administration, but not a strike. "There is a defence in such cases, if employees refuse to work due to a lack of proper working con-ditions," said one attorney. Lev Abeldyayev. But Bolshoir lawyer Irina Ilyina said shewould bring evidence show ing the strike had been planned well in advance, and that" there had been two earlier attempts to disrupt performances. She said the administration would not give up the" suit "because never before had Bolshoi's own performers done such damage to? the theatre." The trial, which is likely to last several days. could become the end of a

### tor Kokonin. Researchers breed pigs with human blood type

months-long feud between Griogorovich and Bolshoi's

former general director Vik-

TOKYO (R) - A pig with both human and swine blood types has been bred by 3. Japanese research team possibly paving the way for possibly paving the way for pig organs to be transplanted to humans. Kyodo News Agency Wednesday quoted in medical researchers alm Nagoya University in central and Japan as saying they put the genes for an enzyme which ... makes human blood into fertilised pig ova. resulting to a offspring whose blood in a cluded a human type. The doctored eggs were transfer-yred to the wombs of 19 sows Of 27 piglets born to three of a the sows, one had both pigo and human blood types, then researchers said. The similar-v ity of pig and human organ weights has led researchers to f. explore the animal's potential 4. as a donor. However, an 1. incompatible antigen in swine blood meant any attempt to 1. use pig organs in a human would end in rejection. The researchers added that press ure from animal welfare. groups over transplant research involving chimpanzees, baboons and other pri-s mates had also spurred in i terest in pigs.

# Former Indian premier cremated

mer Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who died Monday at the age of 99, was cremated Wednesday on the banks of a holy Hindu river in his western home state of Guiarat.

Ні́s son. Kanti Desai, lit the pyre on a specially-erected brick platform near the Sabramati River in the city of Ahmedabad as thousands of mourners watched solemnly, the Press Trust of India reported.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, his cabinet colleagues and opposition leaders were present at the funeral, where soldiers fired shots in the air in tribute to one of the leaders of India's struggle for independence from Bri-

Desai, who was prime minister of the country's first non-Congress Party government for two years from 1977-79, died at a Bombay hospital Monday, two weeks after undergoing surgery to

remove blood clots from his brain.

Egypt. Indonesia, Iran and

Nigeria, voiced strong re-

servations about the resolu-

tion, denouncing it as superfi-

cial and noting it was not

They demanded a signed,

"legally binding" internation-

al treaty to give more credi-

bility to the guarantees-offered by the five major

has failed to acknowledge the

right of the non-nuclear

weapons states for uncon-

ditional security assurances in

Nugroho Wisnumurti of In-

donesia said prior to the vote.

the Non-Aligned Movement

and Mr. Wisnumurti said he was speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned countries.

that the Non-Aligned countries, parties to the NPT.

have doubts concerning the

purported significance of

"It is against this backdrop

Indonesia currently chairs

an international convention,"

"We regret that the draft

legally binding.

nuclear powers.

The government declared seven days of nationwide mourning, while Mr. Rao cal-led the highly-respected De-sai an "illustrious son" of the

Tens of thousands of people lined the streets of Ahmedabad throwing flowers and garlands as Desai's body was taken to the cremation site on an army truck, accompanied by family members and offi-

## Mahathir warns of complacency in polls

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad warned his ruling coalition Wednesday against com-placency as he launched his election manifesto for this month's national election.

There is a danger of complacency in our campaign as many say we will get a landslide victory. We have to guard against that." Mr. Mahathir told reporters in Malaysia's C Lumpur in his bid for his fourth consecutive term.

"My experience as a candidate who has won and lost shows that no one can predict an election result. We have to Kedah state constituency in out.

1969 elections.

Political analysts say Mr. Mahathir's 14-member National Front Coalition should easily maintain its two-thirds majority in the polls on April 24 and 25 against a divided opposition and with Malaysia experiencing unprecedented prosper-

The economy has been growing at eight per cent for the last seven years and the main opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP) concedes it is all but impossible to beat the coalition.

The resource-strapped DAP says the country needs work hard to win," he said. an opposition and voters Mr. Mahathir lost in his should ensure it is not wiped

Mr. Mahathir is appealing to voters to maintain his twothirds majority in the new 192-seat parliament — the margin needed to pass consti-

tutional amendments. "We have the vision to continue development and progress," he said when launching the National Front's manifesto and election slogan: "Vision, justice and effi-

Mr. Mahathir said his coalition is making reasonable promises, unlike the opposition which has vowed political, economic and social reforms together with a series

of tax concessions. "The opposition can promise a lot because they know they have a slim chance of winning," he said.



Los Angeles police criminalist Dennis Fung (left) is questioned by defence attorney Barry . Scheck about information on how to collect DNA evidence out of a book called Criminalis-

tics, during the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles. Mr. Fung was the senior evidence technician at the crime scene on the night of the murder (AFP photo)

### Simpson defence: Prosecutors target jurors

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. he again examined the vehi-Simpson's defence team has cle. accused prosecutors in the American football hero's double murder trial of targetting jurors for dismissal and asked for a special hearing on the matter.

In a written motion, the defence said prosecutors had looked closely at jurors who might be favourably disposed toward Simpson, then tried to "engineer the court's declaration of a mistrial."

While the behind-thescenes drama unfolded, defence attorney Barry Scheck continued a relentless crossexamination of criminalist Dennis Fung, the crime experi, responsible for the collection of evidence in the murders' of Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and

her friend Ronald Goldman. Mr. Scheck homed in on Fung's search of Simpson's white Ford Bronco, suggesting that blood samples taken by the criminalist on June 14 "reappeared" Aug. 26 when

The defence attorney also questioned Mr. Fung closely about a pair of white socks found in Simpson's master bedroom, eliciting from the criminalist that he saw no blood on the socks.

Prosecutors say blood was subsequently discovered on the socks during a laboratory analysis and Simpson's defence has obliquely suggested that a hlood sample given by Simpson may have been used

to "taint" the evidence. The former star running back who became a wellknown sportscaster, actor and TV pitchman has pleaded not guilty in the stabbing deaths of his ex-wife and

The prosecution elaims Simpson drove from his Brentwood estate to Nicole Simpson's townhouse on the night of June 12 last year and killed the pair, before driving home in time to take a limousine to the airport.

In their motion to Judge Lance Ito, defence attorney also accused the judge of an "abuse of discretion" in dismissing juror Jeannette Harris without conducting a hearing with the defence present an action they called a violation of Simpson's rights under the constitution.

After her dismissal last week Harris said the prosecution was "spinning its wheels" and hadn't shown her anything to convince her that Simpson had killed his ex-wife and her friend, charges that Simpson has de-

The defence also asked that, should the number in the jury panel drop below 12, the charges against Simpson be dropped with no possibility of retrial.

Simpson's lawyers claimed that prosecutors have come to "distrust" the current mix of jurors and alternates and hope to obtain a mistrial by causing their number to drop

### Russians inflict heavy losses on Tajik rebels

DUSHANBE (R) — Russian Border Guards in Tajikistan inflicted heavy losses overnight on Islamic fighters from the republic's rebellious eastern province of Gorno-Badakhshan, a spokesman said Wednesday. Six days of fighting be-

tween Russian-led guards and Islamic rebels crossing into Tajikistan from neighbouring Afghanistan have killed 33 Border Guards and wounded 73. ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The battle are clear evi-

dence that Moscow. embroiled in fighting in breakaway Chechenya, risks becoming bogged down in another complex ethnic war on the southern borders of the former Soviet Union.

man said local militia in the mountainous region of Gor-no Badakhshan, which is seeking greater autonomy from Dushanbe, had tried to storm a Russian-manned border post late at night.

"The attack has been repulsed and the rebels suf-fered huge losses." the spokesman said.

Russian helicopter gunships anacked groups of rebels in the region Wednesday morning, he added, but gave no details. Russians accuse the inhabi-

tants of Gomo-Badakhshan. which remains effectively outside the control of the Tajik government, of backing the Afghan-based Islamic fighters.

The latest week of fighting threatens to wreck a ceasefire agreed last year between the government and the rebels. who fled to Afghanistan after losing a 1992 civil war.

Of the 33 dead, 17 were from Kazakhstan, three from Russia and the rest from Tajikistan. A Border Guards spokesman in Moscow said a total of 170 Islamic and Gomo-Badakhshan fighters had been killed.

Tajikistan, which borders Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and China, is the poorest and most unstable former Soviet 400 more U.K. troops leave N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) - Britain said Wednesday it is withdrawing 400 more troops from Northern Ireland because the formerly war-torn province has been at peace for seven months.

It is the second major troop reduction since Irish Republican and rival pro-British Protestant guerrillas began a ceasefire after 25 years of bitter conflict.

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said: "This decision, which represents a further welcome step towards normality in Northern Ireland, has been take solely on the basis of security advice, and can be quickly reversed should the situation require it.

He said an artillery unit would return to its base in Germany within two weeks but could return at short notice if needed. Sir. Patrick said the decision had been taken against the background of "the improved security situation.

Britain withdrew 400 troops last month and soldiers no longer patrol in most cities and towns of the British-ruled province. The latest decision will cut the number of British troops in Northern Ireland to 17,500. Life has been transformed in the province, with trade

increasing and tourist num-

ber growing. But hardline Protestant political. Peter Robinson, of the Democratic Unionist Party. condemned Wednesday's decision, saying Britain was appeasing the IRA (Irish Republican Army).

The guerrillas group's political wing. Sino Fein.i. countered. saying all Britain troops should be recalled to barracks pending their complete withdrawal from the

Violence in the province claimed more than 3,200 lives until the illegal IRA ended an "armed struggle" against British rule last September. The Protestant guerrillas agreed to put away their guns a month later.

The early fragile peace has strengthened and the political representatives of the former warring factions are in exploratory talks with Britain. But peace talks between Britain and Sinn Fein have bogged down over London's reluctance to allow ministers to talk to the Republicans before the IRA gives specific assurances over its weapons.

Meanwhile, the Irish gov-ernment said Tuesday seven more Irish Republican Army prisoners will get early release in recognition of the IRA's continuing ceasefire. mates on condition they do not pursue activities likely to upset the victims of their crimes. Five of the men have con-

victions for possessing weapons while the other two were convicted of armed robbery. All had been due for release between April 1996

and January 1997. Justice Minister Nora Owen said the seven had been "specially selected" to make 'a significant contribution to maintaining the peace process.

Sinn Fein welcomed the esture and demanded that Britain match it by starting to release the more than 300 IRA members it holds behind

In Belfast, the agency responsible for reintegrating paroled prisoners back into the outside world issued a report emphasising that the early release of IRA and pro-British "lovalist" prisoners was a prerequisite to lasting peace.

### Mandela reinstates wife as deputy minister

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — President Nelson Mandela reinstated his estranged wife. Winnie, as a deputy cabinet minister Wednesday, in what may be a prelude to firing her

Mrs. Mandela was sacked from her post as deputy minister of arts, culture science and technology on March 27 after a series of controversies. She has contested her dismissal in court.

Following daylong talks between lawyers for the two Mandelas, the president's office issued a statement explaining that Mrs. Mandela's dismissal was 'technically and procedurally invalid.

The president, upon his return, will consider her position as deputy minister afresh," the statement said. Government sources cited earlier by South African Press Association reported that Mrs. Mandela's successor, Brigitte Mabandla, had been approached by the president's office to see if she would be prepared to "step down for a few hours."

The reinstatement appeared to be an attempt to fire Mrs. Mandela in accordance with the constitution. which stipulates that all cabinet members must be notified in advance of a sack-

Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi. whose Inkatha Freedom Party is the biggest black rival to Mr. Mandela's African National Congress, contends he was not consulted. Reinstating Mrs. Mandela

fire her again without loose strings and avoid a long, costly legal battle. Mrs. Mandela filed court

would permit the president to

that her dismissal was unfair and demanding to know the reasons for it. The reinstatement is seen as a victory for her, even if temporary. Mr. Mandela was to return

Thursday from a trip to the Gulf states. The president relieved his

spouse of her duties last month after a string of embarrassing controversies. the worst to plague his government since last year's historic-all-race elections that ended white minority rule.

They included her public criticism of the pace of the government's social reform. dividing the ANC Women's League she heads, making an unauthorised trip abroad. and allegations by police that she took bribes and peddled her influence.

Mr. Mandela gave no reasons for the dismissal, but papers this week claiming his allies said that Mrs. Man-

dela had proven divisive in the national unity govern-ment and was unable to make the transition from protest politics to running a country. But Mrs. Mandela, popu-

lar among poor blacks due to her militant calls for rapid redistribution of the wealth in post-apartheid South Africa, has refused to go quietly. She has exhibited the same

defiance toward Mr. Mandela's government as she did toward the white minority regime when he was imprisoned for 27 years, suffering constant harrasment as a re-

The couple separated in 1992 for unspecified reasons. a year after Mrs. Mandela was convicted of kidnapping in the abduction of four youths by her bodyguards. One of the victims was later found dead. She avoided prison but paid a fine.



utensile.



Ruman remains from massacres in 1994 lie near the church in Nyamafa, 80 km south of Kigali. Rwanda said that it was preventing U.N. agencies taking food to almost a miltion mainly

Hutu refugees in neighbouring Zaire because such a move was "immoral" and in protest against bloody incursions launched from the camps (AFP photo)

# U.N.: Rwandan refugees massacred in Zaire camp

GENEVA (Agencies) -Gunmen massacred 26 Rwandan Huiu refugees ai the Birava Camp in east Zaire, killed two Zaireans and wounded 55 other people overnight, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Bo!shoi takes

announced Wednesday.
UNHCR spokesman Fernando Del Mundo said the anackers killed two Zaireans and wounded five others on the Inwinja Island in Lake Kivu before going on 10 the nearby camp and killing the refugees, injuring 50 others.

The violence was the most serious incident in the camps since last October, Del Mundo said. Almost a million Rwandans from the Hutu majority have been exiled in Zairean refugee camps since last year's genocidal civil war. Some experts in the region would not rule out the possibility that the attack was a reprisal by Rwandan forces

coming from the camps. The group of gunmen, whom the UNHCR was unable to identify, landed on the island in the middle of the lake at 10:20 p.m. (2130 GMT), aboard three barges opened fire on a group of Zaireans, killing two and

About half an hour later. they surrounded the Birava Camp, home to about 9,000 Hutus, and began shooting with automatic-weapons and threw two hand grenades. Women and children were among the 26 dead and 50

people were injured.
"We have no details on the people who staged the attack and we do not know if they were wearing uniforms," Mr. Del Mundo said.

The wounded were evacuated Wednesday to field hospitals and to Bukavu, one of the two Zairean towns at the hub of relief operations for the Rwandan refugees.

Local authorities have opened an enquiry into the attack and the UNHCR has informed the Zairean govern-ment in Kinshasa." Mr. Del Mundo said. The assault came as the

Rwandan government maintained a blockade it decided to impose last week to prevent U.N. World Food Ptogramme (WFP) lorries from taking supplies to the: re-

fugees in Zaire. Mr. Del Mundo said the botder remained closed Wednesday and added that ralks between U.N. officials and the Kigali authorities were continuing.

ated by the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)

last July, has justified the blockade on security grounds, because of the attacks inside Rwanda by alleged Hutu extremists from

the camps.

Since the beginning of this year, the Kigali authorities have put up increasing opposition to the sending of food aid to the refugee camps in the Goma and Bukavu regions in Zaire, north and south of Lake Kivu, the UNHCR and WFP have

The U.N. agencies have strongly protested against the blockade, pointing out that food stocks are running short and that rations to the refugees, which aid workers have tried to keep to the basic minimum 1,800 calories a day, have been reduced by half in recent weeks.

More than ten thousand Rwandans have taken to the streets here to press the United Nations to leave their country and protest its stance during the civil war last year. national radio teported Wednesday.

The demonstration took place in the capital Kigali Tuesday.

We have to make a bitter observation, that UNAMIR (the U.N. Assistance Mission is useless to this country," one demonstrator said. Another added: "We

there seemed no reason to

suggest it would take notice

of Washington's latest com-

plaint, especially since the

International Monetary Fund

approved a \$6.8 billion loan

to help revive the economy.

cutting aid to Russia, arguing

that it is in their interest to

U.S. officials have opposed

Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga Tuesday told AFP that it was "immoral" that the WFP take food to camps in eastern Zaire.

An Organisation of African Unity (OAU) mission arrived in Burundi Wednesday, seeking to promote reconciliation in a nation racked by ethnic bloodshed and head off any mass slaughter on a scale similar to Rwanda.

The team led by OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmad Salim was to meet President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya of Burundi's Hutu majority and Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo from the Tutsi minority.

"The aim is always the same: to promote discussion on the crisis," said an OAU spokesman. Some 50 OAU military observers are stationed in Burundi but the delegation will weigh sending in more.
The OAU mission, the

latest of scores of international teams sent to Burundi since 1993, was boosted by the presence of Alfred Nzo. foreign minister of South

The team also includes ministers from Egypt. Mauritius and Tunisia and aims to promote peaceful dialogue but has kept open the option of military intervention to prevent ethnic strife.

commanders. But constitu-

tionally the government can

ignore the parliamentary in-

all but eliminated resistance

in the Chechen lowlands.

Tuesday shelled rebel posi-

tions in the west of the

Caucasian republic near

Kremlin troops, who have

# Election frustration triggers new labour unrest in France

PARIS (R) - Workers frustrated by wage freezes, high unemployment and broken political promises hit France with a new wave of labour unrest Wednesday and vowed more in the two weeks before the presidential elec-

Responding to earlier pro-tests and strikes, candidates for the French presidency have scrambled to outdo each other with pledges to create iobs and raise wages.

But union leaders, seeking to take advantage of the election campaign, pressed for specific actions over words. 'In this campaign, the

candidates are saying whatever they want so long as they can seduce a few voters, said Nicole Notat, head of France's largest union, the pro-socialist CFDT.

"At the post office, at state-owned domestic airline) Air Inter, these strikes demonstrate the unhappiness and angulsh of salaries workers worried about the future of public services," Ms. Notat told the french daily Liberation. The most recent voter sur-

veys show conservative Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac holding onto and even strengthening his lead over Socialist Lionel Jospin and fellow con-servative Edouard Balladur in the final days ahead of the first-round ballot. The polls showed Mr. Bal-

ladur in third place behind Mr. Jospin, pointing to a Chirac-Jospin run-off in the May 7 final ballot, held in the event no one wins a majority on April 23.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, a Balladur supporter, dismissed the poll find-



French Prime Minister and presidential candidate Edouard Balladur adjusts his helmet before descending into a coal mine in Freyming Merlebach, eastern France, during a campaign stop (AFP photo)

ings, noning that over a third of voters said they still might change their mind.

The prospects of a fratricidal Chirac-Balladur run-off confrontation dismays many on the right as both men are from the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR), But Mr. Pasqua, also an RPR memher, said this could not

be ruled out.

"I have the feeling that that's what the people want," he told Reuters, "They want to see this. We'll soon see. Above all, it must not degenerate into a battle between fish-wives.

Analysts see the strikes as most damaging to Mr. Balladur, who has become the primary focus of worker anger as France's prime minisler for the past two years.

The unrest has given Mr. Chirac the opportunity to reaffirm his popular message that pay rises are not the enemy of jobs. However, Mr. Balladur de-

fended his stance in favour of creating jobs and cutting state deficits over across-theboard public sector pay hikes. He advocates only selective pay rises, negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
"I find it understandable

that economic growth has returned-and that people want to share in this, but if we destroy the growth there will be nothing to share," he told Fance-2 television.

"The workers feel that more is possible, and I understand this, but I must warm them against being unreasonable, which could lead to disappointment and disillusionment," he said.

Among Wednesday's labour targets were Michelin, the tyre-maker, which was hit by protests at several plants after reporting a return to profitability Tuesday, and the oil giant ELF Aquitaine which has announced plans to let go 300 workers and shut down unprofitable petrol sta-

Worse disruption was expected Thursday when Paris public transport workers will strike on the Metro, suburban train and hnus services and France Telecom pulic telephone employees stage a one-day strike for higher pay' and against layoffs.

Banks and post offices were also expected to be

### Canada, EU fail to end fish dispute

BRUSSELS (R) — EU ambassadors failed Wednesdasy to ease their bitter fish dispute with Canada, insisring that any deal must be multilateral and should include compensation for the

Ambassadors sidestepped any mention of how to share out North Atlantic catch quotas for Greenland halibur, the species at the heart of the row, switching attention to the areas where the European Union speaks as

There was an update from the (European) Commission on their continuing contacts with the Canadians. This did not cover the issue of the (quota) share out," a British official told reporters.

the other countries which fish

"What happens about the compensation for the Estai trawler that was arrested? What happens if the bilateral deal cannot be stood up on a multilateral stage?" the official said.

Attention now switches to

how Canada will react, given that Canadian Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin said Monday that it could take unspecified action if there was no agreement by today. "We will be meeting with the EU this afternoon."

Department spokeswoman Jennifer Sloan told Reuters after the ambassadors' talks

ters and injured 5,500 others. morning," she said. An EU official said representatives of the European Commission and the French EU presidency spoke to the

drastically curbed. Spain

and Portugal the rest. portant so far.

### Autopsy talks start in bid to end Manila-Singapore hanging row tween the two alies in the agreed that the two should try to maintain their bilater-

MANILA (AFP) - The Philippines and Singapore laun-ched a new effort Wednesday to end their dispute over the hanging of a Filipina- maid convincted of murder in the strict law-and-order island

Officials said the two countries were negotiating how to organise a new autopsy on the body of the woman that Flor Contemplacion was found guilty of murdering.

The talks appeared to be the first breakthtough in the crisis since Contemplacion was hanged on March 17.

Singapore has insisted that the 42-year-old mother of four confessed to the 1991 killing of another Filipina maid. Della Maga, and het four-year-old Singaporean

charge, Nicholas Huang. But many Filipinos believe Contemplacion was framed and the dispute has come

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo told reporters he contacted his Singapore counterpart Shanmugam Jayakumar by telephone af-ter similar discussions be-

tween President Fidel Ramos and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in which they agreed on a new autopsy. Findings by Filipino experts that Maga was

bludgeoned to death, probably by a man, contradicted a Singapore pathologists' report that she was strangled. The corner's report was a key element of evidence used to convict Contemplation of

murder. Singapore at first rejected the Philippines' findings as

"absurd." But the Singapore Foreign Ministry, while silent on the

be a step-by-step negotiation between the two of us." He said the two countries will have to agree on the venue, the experts to be chosen, and the kind of

al relations on an even keel.

"He (Shanmugam Jayaku-

mar) and I agreed to talk

today to work out the proce-

dures needed to get the fore-

nsic dialogue started," Mr. Romulo said. "It's going to

equipment that would be needed. Should Singapore agree to send experts here. Manila will provide them "adequate protection and the appropri-

ate hospitality," he added. But Mr. Romulo stressed the agreement on the joint autopsy did not necessarily

mean diplomatic ties were on the mend. "What you can say is that we are trying to find a way to get us out of this 'rough patch,'" he added.

### Japan police arrest key sect member

senior member of the Aum Shinri Kyo cult was arrested Wednesday as police appeared closer to cracking the 10p leadership of the sect suspected in the deadly nerve gas attack on the Tokyo sub-

But the teal purpose of Mr. Niimi's arrest, as with many of the other 100 sect members apprehended so far, is believed to be in connection with the March 20 gas attack that killed II subway commu-

Since the statt of the massive investigation of Aum Shinri Kyo, or the Supreme Truth sect on March 22, police have discovered huge amounts of chemicals, including ingredients to make the nerve gas sarin at the sect

But cult spokesman have repeatedly denied tesponsibility, saving the chemicals were for a "self-sufficient life" and for "preparation to survive a final war" predicted by Asahara in 1997.

sect's so-called "home affairs ministry." suspected of underground activities including kidnapping, is the third Supreme Truth "minister" arrested in the past week and considered the most im-

Shoko Egawa, a journalist who has followed the cult for the past five years, said his arrest represented "As major blow to the sect's organisation."

"Now that a top-ranking official has been arrested on in a television interview.

bers were arrested for minor offenses like traffic violations, trespassing and using

cial case. I know of no other case in which police acted this way," said criminology Professor Hiroaki Iwai.

He was police officials were "puring their careers at stake" and may "be criticised for human rights violations." in their desperate attempt to solve this unprecedented

Asahara (the sect leader). Even if they get him now, he wouldn't confess anything. Then he will be free after a 23-day detention period, Prof. Iwail said, noting that police are now trying to build up evidence on which to question the 40-year-old guru

"I believe police know the whereabouts of Asahara" he added.

cause its eventual disintegra-

reacheo a crucial stage. senior police investigators across Japan held an "emergency meeting" here Wednesday to exchange information regarding their probe into the sect.

In Moscow, President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday ordered state investigators to ook into the activities in Russia of the Japanese doomsday sect suspected of a nerve-gas anack which kilted 11 people in Tokyo and injured more than 5,500, his press service said.

Mr. Yeltsin commissioned the prosecutor general, the Federal Security Services (FSB) and the governmental commission on religious questions to investigate "all instances of activity of the Aum Supreme Truth on Russian territory," the press service said in a statement.

These investigations will be carried out in collaboration with Japanese investigators, the statement said.

A former member of the sect testified Tuesday that Aum Supreme Truth had twice tested its nerve gas in Russia. ITAR-TASS news agency reported Wednesday.

The former member, only identified as Marina, said the toxic gas and other drugs were administrered at the cult's Moscow chapter to help members "penetrate other worlds.

The woman was addressing a Moscow court which is considering accusations against the sect brought by the antisect organisation the Committee for Saving Youth from Totalitarian Secis, ITAR-TASS said.

Russians fight on in Chechenya despite U.S. worries

MOSCOW (R) — Russia Wednesday said ii would press on with crushing rebel resistance in Ghechenya despite mounting criticism from the United States, which is worried the conflict could wreck a summit in Moscow

next month. Government spokesman Nikolai Pronin said Kremlin troops, which have taken most Chechen hastions after four months of fighting, now planned to turn their attention to the western town of Bamut, which is still in tebel

"The main military operations are hehind us. Of course, Bamut is still standing. But Russian forces will cleanse it (of fighters) rather than seize it." he said hy

telephone. In the past, the Russians have had little success in persuading rebels to leave their

MINSK (R) - Scores of

gunmen burst into the Be-

larussian parliament before

dawn Wednesday and evicted

nationalists staging a hunger

strike to denounce President

Mr. Lukashneko had- ear-

lier threatened to dissolve the

assembly if it blocked a re-

ferendum to grant him more

The showdown left the

assembly chamebr empty and

locked, in the latest constitu-

lional clash in the former

Deputies told journalists

the 18-member protest group

had been manhandled by

armed special forces who

bushed them out of the build-

By midday the parliament

emained shut as senior de-

muies met in an adjoining

hnexe to determine their

ext step in a long battle with

Ar. Lukashenko over consti-

utional powers. A full ses-

ion was scheduled latet in

Valentin Golubets of the

ng just before 3 a.m.

· Dower.

Soviet Union.

Alexander Lukashenko.

war.

'major miscalculation."

strongholds and it seemed

campaign after high-level talks in Moscow failed to allay U.S. concerns about the

"This conflict is having a corrosive effect on the development of Russian democratic institutions and Russian democracy, and it's having a negative effect on U.S.-Russian relations." State Department spokesman Nicho-

led the campaign to wipe out Chechen separatist forces a

Bui Russia has shrugged off criticism of the war and

strengthen democracy and free markets, despite differences over Chechenya which could mar a May summit between presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton.

The lower house of Russia's parliament, which in the past has been critical of the war, passed a resolution Wednesday which would ban the use of the armed forces in Chechenya. The motion went to the upper house for more

Bamut and Achkhoi-Martan. Chechen leader Dzhokhat **Dudayev Tuesday accused** 

discussion and a vote. The motion ordered the government to start talks on a ceasefire with Chechen rebel

Moscow's troops of using "unprecedented cruelty" agains) civilians, and Washington echoed concern voiced by Russian human rights workers and refugees

from the fighting.
"We're also disturbed by reports — which we have not been able 10 substantiate of alleged Russian atrocities against Chechen civilians (and of) reports that fighting continues near the Chechen border with Ingushetia," Mr. Burns said.

Gunmen oust nationalists from Belarus assembly opponents into submission. The president of Kazakhstan, dissolved his parliament last month. Disputes also

> tional rights. "This referendum will take place no matter how you vote." Mr. Lukashenko told

> deputies Tuesday. "I will make no further concessions. You have until the end of the week to correct this. If parliament violates the constitution, I will suspend its activity."

solve parliament. Others would move Belarus closer to its Soviet past ---

Deputies agreed to hold a teferendum on the single issue of approving close ties with Russia. They threw out three other questions, including one enabling Mr. Lukashenko expressly 10 0is-

establishing Russian as a state language alongside rarely-used Belarussian, and introducing Soviet-like state ted catch.

He said the key questions for the 15-country bloc were compensation for Canada's seizure of the trawler Estai. which was arrested in international waters off Newfoundland in early March. and the mechanics of extending any EU/Canada deal to

the area.

Canadian External Affairs

ended. "We have not been informed of any official results from the EU meeting this

Spanish and Portuguese ambassadors ahead of the full meeting of ambassadors. The EU is seeking to thrash out a position which will satisfy Spain, where the fishing industry fears thousands of jobs will be lost if their trawlers' catches are

Canada says stocks are ax dire risk from overfishing. Madrid wants the EU to have 13,500 tonnes of the 1995 quota for the disputed area - half the entire permit-

### close to leading to a break-up autopsy, said Tuesday that in diplomatic relations be-Mr. Ramos and Mr. Goh

TOKYO (AFP) — Another

Tomomitsu Niimi, 31, a right-hand man of the sect's dominant guru. Shoko Asahara, was arrested on a central Tokyo street for allegedly detaining a sect member, a police spokesman said. The case involves the alleged kidnapping of a 29-year-old woman after she tried to escape the sect last year, tele-

vision reports said.

commune in central Japan.

Mr. Niimi, the head of the quota of Greenland halibut

serious charges, it will greatly disrupt them, Mr. Egawa said Police have mounted an all-out campaign to detain sect members, using all possible legal means. Some mem-

false names. "This is an extremely spe-

"Police can't just arrest

by arresting his followers.

Analysts also say that police are arresting Aum members as a tactic to slowly paralyse the radical sect and

In another indication that the raids on the sect had

Belarussian Popular Front aid up to 100 men, armed

he day.

for bloody raids inside Rwanda, which the Tutsidominated government blames on Hutu extremists

that seized power in Kigali

likely an assault would have to be mounted against the The bloodshed and destruction in the rehel region has prompted concern in the west. Washington Tuesday expressed new alarm over the

A senior U.S. official cal-

wearing black masks, entered the chamber and pushed the deputies into the street. They pushed us along a line of men and hit us with

open again.' a debate culminating in parliament rejecting three of four questions in a referen-

general elections. osals called for strengthened presidential powers in the country of 10 million sandwiched between Russia.

with submachine guns or

is the establishment of a totalitarian, fascist state. We may never see our parliament Deputies launched the hunger strike Tuesday during

One of the rejected prop-Ukraine and Poland.

One member. Alexander

Shut, showed reporters a

large bruise on his back.

Several members suggested

the forces who evicted them

were Russians, judging from

their truncheons," he said. mic adversity even more than their Russian and Ukrainian "When we told them about parliamentary immunity. they hit us even harder. This

dum sought by the president on May 14, the same day as

Belarussian radio and television, heavily controlled by the government, reported nothing of the overnight inci-

> neighbours, went about their business as normal and the city centre was calm. Mr. Lukashenko stormed out of the chamber Tuesday after a disjointed address laced with criticism of attempts by Western institutions to speed up Belarussian

reforms and exhortations to

Belarussians, hit by econo-

join together with their Slav neighbours. He has threatened to dissolve the parliament unless deputies agree to his proposals on referendums.

wirh parliament is typical of

constitutional rows in many

It was Russian President

Boris Yeltsin's dissolution of

a hardline parliament which

led to the October 1993 con-

frontation in the streets of

Moscow in which Mr. Yeltsin

used tankfire to pound his

former Soviet republics.

Mr. Lukashenko's dispute

symbols.

persist between president and parliament in Ukraine, where deputies Wednesday were debating a law on constitu-

catches 80 per cent of the EU

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan. Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

### Beware the time bomb

PALESTINIAN LEADERS have accused Israel of fueling civil war among Palestinians in the wake of the discovery of an increasing number of Israeli-made weapons in the hands of Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants. This is a very serious charge that warrants a closer scrutiny. Israeli state television on Tuesday even aired an equally disturbing allegation that there is a coincidental Likud-Hamas connection to undermine the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal altogether in preparation for an alternative scenario for the West Bank in particular.

Of course, we have no absolute evidence to confirm these serious allegations. What is still undeniable, though, is the fact that extremists within the Palestinian ranks have Israeli made-guns and ammunition. Equally evident is the observation that the violence perpetrated by Palestinian militants seemingly opposed to the Oslo and Cairo accords is dangerously undermining these agreements as well as weakening the Rabin government. All forecasts in Israel tell of a clear victory for the Likud in the upcoming Israeli national elections unless the peace process is widened and deepened in the few months ahead. This makes Palestinian extremism unwittingly at least an ally of the Israeli hardliners.

Assuming the best by rejecting the Palestinian accusations as baseless or outrageous, there is still strong evidence that even the Labour-led government is igniting civil strife among the Palestinians by dragging its feet in an exaggerated way over the implementation of the peace accords. Many deadlines on the various stages of these agreements, including the important ones on holding Palestinian elections and Israeli withdrawal from urban areas from the West Bank have not been met. The increasing frustration of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in its efforts to show hard evidence that peace agreements with Israel are working can only pull the rug from under its feet and weaken its resolve to exercise authority and control over the Palestinian people. When the lack of delivery of the funds pledged by the international community to the PNA is added to the woes of the Palestinians, there is no escape from the conclusion that several factors are already in place to fuel a fratricidal armed conflict between Palestinians, whether or not Israel is in fact party to the scheme. There is at least one thing that Prime Minister Rabin can do to prevent a catastrophe from occurring and that is to move in earnest to implement what has been painstakingly negotiated and agreed upon. The donor countries can also lend critical support by making good on their promises of financial and economic assistance. Otherwise, the climate in Gaza Strip as well as in the West Bank would remain a time bomb ready to explode at any time.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENȚARIES

AL RA'l Arabic daily Wednesday hailed a government decision to hold municipal elections during the coming summer, describing the step as a clear manifestation of the country's democratic orientation. Though the experiment is novel, everyone hopes that the election of mayors and municipal council members would become a firm tradition and a rule from now, said the paper. This is not only a practice of democracy and people's rule, but also an opportunity for Jordanians to choose the best and most qualified persons to run their local councils and the affairs of their towns and villages, continued the daily. There is no doubt that the voters will hold their mayors and council members accountable for their performance and their actions, and will naturally decide whether to reelect them or choose other more qualified persons later on for the job. added the paper. Urging Jordanian citizens to register for voting in the coming municipal elections, the paper said that the election practice is an inherent part of the democratisation process.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour urged Iran and Iraq to mend fences and pool their efforts to thwart American hostile actions directed against the two countries. Mohammad Kawash said that the United States, which is intent on perpetuating the embargo on Iraq, despite the Arah country's compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions, was now turning its attention towards weakening Iran and imposing a kind of international siege on the Tehran regime. Washington now seems hidding for other nations' support to impose some kind of economic embargo on Iran, and is waiting for the right moment to implement its hostile and aggressive action on that country, continued

the writer.

View from Academia

# Pet responsibility, pet abuse and the authorities

EVEN THOUGH most people in our society are extremely loving of pets and are generally kind to them, they are nonetheless often unwittingly abusive of them. There is a great deal of ignorance about dealing with pets and about caring for them on the part of people and a great deal of aloofness and neglect on the part of the authorities, especially with respect to stray pets whose number is

alarmingly large. People in our part of the world are generally fond of pets: cats, birds, and (to a lesser extent) dogs. Pets are almost everywhere, in the more and less privileged neighbourhoods, in towns and cities, in the rural areas, in the desert, etc. In the so-called popular areas, for example, cats exist in ahundance; there is hardly a house in there which does not have one or two cats. The rich have pets, and the poor have pets; the young have them, and the old

Fine. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having pets of any kind. On the contrary, there may be something wrong when and if a society does not have them. In our society, even though a lot of people may not talk much in public about their pets (as much, that is, as other peoples in other societies do), deepdown they care a great deal about them and they express their feelings generously about them

Two things, however, bother me about what we may call the pet situation in our part of the world. The first, as I have just prefaced, has to do with the ignorance of dealing with pets and of caring for them and with the abuse that results from such ignorance.

The decision to own pets is extremely arbitrary in most cases. There is more to the matter, in my opinion, than the "wish" or "desire" to have pets. Having pets, much like baving children, is a big responsibility. Therefore, before

people decide to own one, they ought to ask themselves whether they are prepared and ready for the responsibility. Do they have the time to cater for the various needs of the animal they are about to own, and to care for it? Do they know what these needs are? Do they know what to do once

they own the pet? Do they have an appropriate place for it? In the early stages of owning a pet, pet owners are expected to spend a significant amount of time disciplining and training it. This is no easy matter, for a pet (like any other family member or member of society) has to be taught the shalts and shalt-nots, so that life will be convenient and pleasant for the pet itself, for the family members and for the neighbours. A pet also must not be fed just anything. For instance, pets are not supposed to be fed raw meat, they must not be fed contaminated food, and they must not be either undernourished or overfed. And they must be cared for bygienically. They are to be given certain shots routinely and taken to the vet when they become sick. And so on and so forth.

Unfortunately, the condition of pets is extremely unsatisfactory, and unpleasing in our society. The vast majority of people, especially in the popular areas and the countryside (where the vast majority of pets is found), do not offer pets any training whatsoever, do not feed them properly and do not care much about their health. They are let loose to wander all over, they are fed raw meat and contaminated food (at times they are left to fend for themselves, and thus rummage garbage containers freely and pester the neighbours), they are not given any shots and are let to be sick and left to die (some suffer greatly before they die, of

Most pets live a miserable life in our part of the world, and most are a nuisance to people. Take a walk or a drive in

the so-called "popular" areas, and see for yourself the misery of cats, for example.

Which brings me to the second point: stray pets. Because the decision to own pets is arbitrary, because pets are largely untrained and undisciplined, because people abandon pets just as freely and carelessly as they obtain them. many of them end up being stray pets.

This is a serious problem. Our cities, our towns, our villages and the space in between are full of stray cats and dogs. The case of cats is obvious; that of dogs is less obvious. But stray dogs are there, in the towns and cities and in the space between. A friend who lives in the more privileged western Amman told me the other day that neither he nor any member of his family can take a walk next to his apartment huilding early in the morning or late at night — because of stray dogs, which are as ferocious as wolves. His apartment huilding lies at the edge of the neighbourhood. If this is the case in Amman, what is it like in the less populated regions?

Clearly, people need to be educated about pets, for the knowledge of the majority is almost nil in this respect. And this is going to be a great effort, and it ought therefore to be shouldered by many institutions and establishments, not one or two. The media ought to be involved (the TV and the press), the schools, and the various governmental and non-governmental authorities concerned.

But the authorities need to do something about stray pets. It is not enough (neither is it acceptable or humane) for teams to go out randomly and shoot stray dogs. A more systematic, well-planned, humane and civilised method needs to be adopted and implemented. The experts in our society can, I am sure, tell us how to go about doing this to the best of everyone's satisfaction, the pets' and ours.

# Close campaign throws spotlight on personality

WHEN THE French go to vote on April 23 in the first round of their presidential election, they will have as broad a spread of candidates and opinion to choose from as any nation could

As well as the seven candidates detailed below. there will be Arlette Laguiller, the vivacious hardy perennial of the electoral scenc, who is further left than the Communists, and perhaps also an Ecologist candidate distinct from the Greens, if Antoine Waechter can collect the 500 signatures he needs to stand.

Despite the breadth of choice, however, the signs are that French voters will opt for convention, or perhaps realism, and share their votes between centreright and centre-left, with IO per cent or so going to the National Front at one end of the spectrum and the communists at the other.

In part, this is a pity. because the fringe is where the characters are, along with the strong opinions and some of the most fervent dehate. The candidates and their supporters can plead their causes without worrying too much ahout the exigencies of power in the late 20th century, the need to halance the hudget.

or the image of France. Still, the real fight is for the two places in the second round on May 7, a fight between the three candidates at the centre: the Socialist, Lionel Jospin. and the two Gaullists -

When electing a head of state, they do things differently in France. Mary Dejevsky in Paris explores the issues and profiles the candidates in the arcane procedure that will produce the next president

Jacques Chirac, mayor of Paris and twice prime minister: and the current prime minister. Edouard Balladur, Forty per cent of voters are undecided. Which way will they swing? Even the most seasoned of pundits hesitates even to

While there are clearly identifiable issues, the policy differences between the three main candidates are often small, and shrinking further as the men try to adjust their policies to suit the voters - or what their polls tell them the voters want. Many voters, there, may cast their ballots according to their disposition towards the candidates

personally. The first issue that each candidate knows he must address is social policy. which includes, in rough order to concern: Unemployment, pay, social security and health. France has one of the highest unemployment rates in Europe — more than 12 per cent and the three main candidates have pledged their best efforts to reduce it.

Mr. Balladur says he is already reducing it, and cites the slight hut steady

fall over the past four months, Mr. Chirae has set out a combination of public works projects and incentives for employers to take on unemployed workers: Mr. Jospin wants shorter working hours, and public works to revive rundown

The pressure to increase public sector pay has risen in recent weeks with strikes that culminated in a general transport strike last week. But none of the main candidates has condemned the strikes, called for further privatisation or suggested that "one man's pay rise is another man's job."

The second major area is "youth": Youth unemployment, which is declining more slowly than unenyployment generally, and the widespread disaffection of young people from the political process. Judging by the participation on young people in the campaigns of all the candidates. French youth may be less disaffected than many assume. hut the candidates are still making great efforts to

This entails promising hetter education and training — hur on no account. introducing selection for universities — and no reduction in the minimum wage for under-25s. Mr. Chirac seems to be doing better with the young than either of the other candidates, with his message that France "can and must change," but his success may owe as much to his dynamic image as to any specific policy.

The third area of concern is corruption in public life. Judgements are pending in a series of trials which affect officials and former officials associated with all three main candidates, Mr. Jospin could stand to gain the most from an anticorruption vote, and Mr. Balladur - who was implicated in a phone-tapping scandal and had "transparency" problems over his assets and business dealings

— the least. But Mr. Balladur has taken the precaution of stating that, if elected, he will not grant an amnesty for convicted officials.

Fourth is foreign policy. and Europe in particular. This is not at present a subject of particular public concern — the anti-Manstricht contingent had

their say in a referendum and in last year's European elections — but it is a sub-ject on which each of the main candidates must know ...how to speak. Foreign poli-... cy - unlike the details of domestic policy - is regarded as the prerogative of the president, and Mr. Chirac set the pace by devoting a special paper to foreign policy, in which

Europe figured large. All three main candidates are vying to present themselves as good Europeans; none contests France's position in Europe, though all acknowledge the large anti-Maastricht vote in France hy pledging to force glasnost" and "accountability" on the Brussels hitreaucraev. Mr. Balladur's hint hack in December that he was becoming more Eurosceptical and more critical of the Franco-German axis is not borne out in his campaign statements. If anything, he seems more unconditionally

Europhile than Mr. Chirac. whose team includes an anti-Maastricht campaigner. Philippe Séguin. Mr. Chirac is the only main-stream candidate to mention British concerns

"hridge-huilder" hetween Britain and Germany. That does not mean, however, that as president he would be more sympathetic towards a Eurosceptical Britain. On the contrary: His very Frenchness, and his aggressive insistence on retaining the French "cultural difference," make him potentially harder for Britain to deal than either Mr. Jospin, whose socialism is traditional and familiar, or Mr. Balladur.

but only to elevate France

to the role of European

The Frenchness of Mr. Chirac — in his manner and his priorities — is one feature that could recommend him to France's voters over the other two main candidates. While a man of the right, he has also managed to represent some of the concern ahout social divisions that hangs over this campaign. In addition, he has the possible advantage of heing seen as an outsid er: Not associated with either the present presidential party, like Mr. Jospin. or with the present government. like Mr. Balladur.

But he is not home and dry. If Mr. Chirac can present himself as 'French' and dynamic, Mr. Balladur can present himself as experienced and competent. and Mr. Juspin can promote himself as the only one genuinely concerned about the social issues that so preoccupy the voters. The choice is theirs.

The Independent

# Rewriting the words that made up cold war wisdom

By Fred Halliday IN THE U.S. the collapse of the Soviet Union has the cold war and its outcome that promises to throw many of the assumptions on which that conflict was waged into question. One favourite target of the Republican right as much as of the Democratic liberal left, is that the U.S. has a world role to play. The

debate on the U.S. role is.

however, sharpened by cri-

tical reflections on the cold

war and its outcome. George Kennan, the man who first formulated the "containment" doctrine in the 1940s, now argues that the U.S. did not "win" the cold war at all. Far from defeating the communist challenge by, in his words at the time. "living up to its best traditions." Mr. Kennan sees the U.S. as having relied far too much on military pressure, and as having been corrupted by the way it waged this conflict. He and other critics point to a series of domestic crises - McCarthyism in the 1950s, the domestic turmoil over Vietnam in

the 1960s. Watergate in the

1970s, the social cutbacks

of the "Reagan revolution"

in the 1980s - that accom-

panied, and were to a degree justified by, the waging of cold war.

One man who reacted with alarm to this while in office was Henry Kissinger. He does not think that the Soviet Union could ever have won the cold war but he does argue that the West, and the U.S. in particular, could have lost it. American society was in a state "of near civil war" when he came into office with Nixon in January 1969. The Watergate crisis of 1973-4 Was. in his view. the reason why his balance of power policy vis-a-vis the USSR failed. In particular. Dr. Rissinger believes that the 1973 agreement with North and South Vietnam, under which the U.S. finally pulled all its forces out, could have worked if Congress had continued to allow the U.S. government to use its air power in defence of the South. Dr. Kissinger has few regrets about his time in office: neither the bomhing and invasion of Cambodia, nor the December 1972 hombing of North Vietnam, for example. cause him concern.

Robert Gates, former

of the covert operations of the agency, seeing them as a legitimate riposte to Soviet actions: he places respsonsibility for almost idency, not the CIA. Mr. Gates, who left the directorship in 1993. has. however, had to face the fact that his organisation. as much as that of his previously derided British counterparts, was also infiltrated at a high level by the KGB: he quotes his predecessor. Richard Helms advice, that he should go home every evening asking: "not if, but where the mole is": in the end Aldrich Ames provided the

answer to that question. On Afghanistan, the largest ever CIA covert operation, and one which involved it in a protracted support for drugs dealers and Islamic fundamentalists, Mr. Gates denies that his operation ended by fomenting Islamic fundamentalism. He argues that what happened there after the Soviet withdrawal was not something to which he. or anyone else in office, devoted much attention.

Others. however, do express regret: Rohert McNadirector of the CIA. is mara, secretary of defence equally adamant in defence from 1961 to 1968, and the man many hetd responsible for the involvement in Vietnam is now about to break his silence on that war in a volume of memoirs. He speaks openly and with regret of misjudgments that underlay the U.S.'s Indo-China policy. He stresses in particular the underestimation of Vietnamese nationalism. and hence its independence of Soviet aims. Unlike many Americans who talk of the war in terms of what Vietnam "did to us". Mr. 'McNamara expresses equal regret for the larger loss of Vietnamese life: 57,000 as against four million by his count. Later, as president of the World Bank, he went to Cuha and he came to respect the revolution's social, if not its political. achievements, and has become highly criticial of the

During the cold war itself, much was made, especially in U.S. discussion, of how the West could use nuclear weapons: but those who did so at the time are much more cautious now, Neither Dr. Rissinger, who made his name in 1957 with a book on fighting nuclear war. nor Paul Nitze. a military adviser to several presidents and a noted

would ever have been used. Mr. McNamara, who came out of the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 proclaiming that the U.S. success in getting Soviet missiles out of Cuba was a proof of how nuclear superiority could be used, has since come to believe that there is no such thing as superiority and that much U.S. thinking on the subject was mistaken.

Mr. McNamara is parti-

hawk. now believe they

cularly scathing about the way in which U.S. politicians talked of a strategic gap in favour of the USSR: if John F. Kennedy ran for office in 1960 on the basis of a "missile gap" in Russia's favour. Mr. McNamara discovered when he came into office that there was a gap. of 17 to one in the U.S.'s favour. Even Mr. Nitze. who in both the early 1950s and late 1970s was a high profile advocate of the Soviet threat, and who regrets that Kennedy did not do more to humiliate the Russians over their Cuha retreat. now concedes that no such Soviet

Today's reflections bring out the degree to which U.S. strategy was haunted by history. Behind fear ab-

advantage ever existed.

attack was the memory of the surprise Japanese attack at Pearl Harbour in 1941. The central factor constraining the U.S. military in Vietnam from invading the North was not domestic resistance, or a fear of a Soviet nuclear reply, but the memory of the massive Chinese military intervention in Korea at the end of 1950. Today the fear dominating U.S. policy in the post-cold war towards crises as diverse as Haiti or Bosnia, is the memory of Vietnam, of the inability to win, and the divisions this provoked in U.S. society.

Such abstention is, of course, easier in regard to conflicts far away: it would be ironic indeed if the revolution that was to cause the U.S. the greatest unease turned out to be not that of Russia in 1917, but the immense upheaval which began seven years earlier on its very frontiers. the Mexican revolution of 1910. Few in Washington. believe that the recent \$40 billion hail-out will be the last, hence the fear that Mexico will become "Clin-

ton's 'Vietnam." The Guardian

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Published Every Thursday

The controversy between the government and same af the country's weekly newspapers. spurred by the government's stapping of the presses at Al Bilad and Hawadith Al Sa'a. brewed some new ingredients for discussion in lacal tabloids this past week. But first it shauld be pointed aut that no ane can seem ta agree an nomenclature. Same newspapers describe the issue as "closures." "banning." or even "canfiscation." Others apt for the more generic, non-committal forms such as "the situation," "subject," or "topic." And then there is the government, which avoids the use af any adjective, remains tight-lipped an the issue, and simply states, "the cases are before the courts." So what have the tablaids said this past week? First, said one, the situation is getting bad press for Jordan because the government has taken action against some newspapers without clearly explaining why. Another said that the position af the Ministry of Infarmation, that it is simply applying the law, is selective. But whatever the papers said, one senior official admitted privately that the methad by which the actions were taken has been inappropriate at best. Meanwhile it appears that "the cases before the caurt" hold much to be decided upon.

Determination or preoccupation? Seemingly determined to personally enforce the Press and Publications Law, Minister of Information Khalid Karaki last week telephoned the editor of an Arabic daily to complain about his newspaper's coverage of a surgical aperation performed by a certain dactor. The minister's objection to the article was that the newspaper was publicising and therefare promoting the surgeon -- a tactic which is against the law, Dr. Karaki reminded the editor. The perplexed editor, respanded by simply saying. "But, your excellency. Jordan Television a day earlier gave the same surgeon cansiderable air coverage an the same subject." A caught unaware Dr. Karaki had little mare ta camplain about, according to one account that appeared in a, well, tablaid.

Sad returns: Nayef Hawatmeh, leader af the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) is in Amman this week; but not as part af regular visit ta meet with colleagues and assaciates, but on a private abligation necessitated by the death of his older brother Najib Hawatineh. Najib Hawatmeh died in the U.S. where he had been living, The last time Nayef Hawatmeh was in Jordan was again far a sorrowful occasion one and a half years aga when his nephew passed away. It was not clear whether Mr. Hawaimeh would engage in political talks here, but the occasion has brought him together with many ald friends and personalities from the Jardanian and Palestinian communities. In fact, His Rayal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, represented, by Amman Governor Talat



Nayef Hawatmeh

eekender-

Nuwaiseh, sent his candalences ta the Hawaimeh family. But lingering is the questian of whether or not Mr. Hawatmeh will be able to return ta Gaza where he has requested to move along with the DFLP to take part in developments there. The answer appears to depend an Palestine Liberation Organisatian (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat who would have to facilitate such an arrangement via the Israeli gavernment. A similar situation stands with Tayseer Khalid, wha is Mr. Hawatmeh's representative on the PLO Executive Cammittee. Whereas Mr. Khalid already is on the list of thase allawed to return to Gaza, he must still await the backing of Mr. Arafat befare the Israeli autharities.

Opposite 'angles': It was no secret that the Royal Scientific Society which last week began celebrating its 25th anniversary has endured considerable criticism in the press over the years. But perhaps no charges were more scathing than those of veteran Al Ra'i calumnist Tareq Masarweh, who a few years back blasted the RSS far "nan-praductivity." Sa when the cantankeraus controversy advocate stepped forward earlier this week to join a graup of his media associates on a taur of the RSS a quarter decade into its mandate, considerable thaught was on what would the spirited grand master af criticism write this time. Three days after the press tour. Masarweh wrote the column many were waiting eagerly, perhaps even anxiously, ta read. He began: "We are naw in an era where we need caurageous decision makers, and we need to open our doors to scientifically minded-people." He injected: "There is no harm in admitting that we did not know much about this organisation (the RSS)." And he concluded: 'Naw that the Royal Scientific Saciety has mad clear its objectives -- that it wants to work sideby-side with industry, tawards standardisatian and consumer protection -- we would be grateful to see the gavernment taking decisive action" in encauraging cooperation with the RSS. A 180degree turn? You might say sa.



From right to left RSS President Hani Mulqi, Al Ra'i columnist Tareq Masarweh, Al Jamahir Editor Emil Nafa, and RSS Vice President Said Alloush walk on the grounds of RSS during a press tour marking the society's 25th anniversary

Trials and tribulations: Al Dustaur journalist Musa Hawamdeh is a man of decisive action. Not only did he resign recently fram the Jordanian Press Association in protest against the association's position on the cantraversy between the Ministry of Information and Al Bilad Arabic daily, but he alsa published a book that tauches upon the daily and nearly routine nuisances and frustrations of his lead and title character, Khabbas Al Da'eh, Hawamdeh's publication is a collection of very short vignettes (averaging 2.5 pages each) which takes you through typical Khabbas experiences. Underlying each stary is Hawaindeh's own criticism of situations mare than likely experienced just as aften by the reader. The



Asmahan Ali, smiles for Air Canada's "en Route" magazine

settings and situations af the staries alone can tell tales: they are on public buses, dealing with civil servants, attending a saccer matchturned grandstand brawl, getting a drivers licence, at the theatre, attending a poetry recital, and so on. Hawamdeh may have found some peace in letting off steam through Khubbas -- na doubt he hope his readers will alsa.



Mufleh Salem, as featured on the cover of Air Canada's "en Route" magazine

Smiles away: As was promised, Air Canada published its April issue af its "en Route" inflight inagazine featuring a 15-page spread on Jordan, Land of a Thousand Smiles." Whether it was planned or caincidence that the feature appeared at the same time Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were on a official visit to the North American country, we may never knaw. But one Jardanian tour guide, Mufleh Salem, will have much to brag about because it was his smile among those thousand that was selected to beam across the cover page of the travel publication. published in English and French. And it was another smile in the feature. that of little Asmahan Ali of Wadi Musa, that we could nat resist sharing with our readers to end on and even brighter side.

Jennifer Hamarneh

# Director Xie Jin has answers for China's ailing film industry

By Bradley Lee Agence France Presse

SHANGHAI — Competing with foreign films has put the Chinese film industry in a make-or-break situation but director Xie Jin has a plan to gain a foothold on the international scene and promote mainland talent.

The 72-year-old veteran director, who has just graduated the first class of students from the drama school he opened last year, will collaborate with Hong Kong counterpart Ann Hui on a \$10 million epic about the 19th century Sino-British Opium

"It's one of the biggest film budgets ever in China," Xie told AFP. "That's like \$40 million in the U.S. because costs here are lower."

The film, which chronicles the conflict that ledto Hong Kong becoming a British colony, is to be completed next year in time for the 1997 handover of the territory to Chinese sovereignty.

It is also a first attempt by the director at winning back audiences for Chinese films whose low budgets have made competition with foreign films difficult.

'For Chinese films what is important is money. If we had the same amount

of money (as foreign productions) we could make films like Spielberg's Schindler's List.

Recent screenings of works by Chinese film directors - Zhang Yimou (To Live), Chen Kaige (Farewell To My Concubine), Tian Zhuangzhuang (The Blue Kite) at international film festivals have focused some attention on the industry but not enough to attact the amount of capital

needed. "A few films have won some international awards but most of them --- even the ones I directed - will .not reach that level," said Zie, who has won several national awards since beginning his career in 1948.

"It's a very difficult period now for Chinese films," said the director, lounging in the offices of his Xie Jin-Heng Tong School of Performing Arts which saw its first class of 47 young actors and actresses graduate at the end of February.

This year's class mostly composed of budding actresses in their early 20s — are preapring for roles in another upcoming Xie Jin movie, called Valley Of The Girls (Nu'er Gu), which is based on a novel of the same name.

"I chose to do this film just for my students because it was well-adapted to them," he said, adding that filming of the produc-tin, mainly aimed at a Chinese audience, would begin in nearby Hangzhou on April 1.

The film features eight of the school's graduates as women prisoners who are serving time for past mistakes and "their feelings and regrets," according to school vice president and drama director Yuan Guo Ying.

Yuan, 58, who has translated and produced American dramas for audiences here, said the movie's script was in its seventh rewrite by screenwriter Zong Fuxian and the book's author Zhou Jianping.

To learn their roles the actresses were sent to live in a women's penal colony in Zhejiang province.

"I've never had the experience of entering a prison but I always agree with Xie Jin's methods," said 20-year-old actress Zhao Wei, who spent 20 days in the Jinghua prison to prepare her role.

"It is a difficult role because I am so young but the prisoners already know the hardhsips of life," added the actress who was inspired to a career in acting after watching films starring

Gong Li. Students at the Xie Jin school, which is supported by the Heng Tong construction company, spend one year in intensive training and pay 8,000 yuan (\$950) in tuition — expensive for Chinese students used to paying between 2,000 and 3,000 yuan for post-secondary studies.

Payback comes after graduation when students are obliged to give 30 per cent of their gross earnings to the school in the first three years of their careers.

"These students have a good chance with this film after being here only one year and the fact that they graduated from my school," said Xie who enjoys a grandftherly image among his students.

While the film is not intended to compete with foreign films, it could find some success in China. "There is a distance between the films that win prizes abroad and the ones the Chinese audiences like," said Yuan.

But for Zhao and other rising stars, who will dominate China's silver screen as directors focus on making their films more competitive, the movie holds the key to success.

"It will help me a lot." stad Zhao."The director Xie Jin is very wellknown, and if I do well there will be more roles for me in the future."

# No sex, please, we're China Entertainment TV

major Chinese cities.

another way. East Asians,

he says, are fed up with

too much blood and guts

in their television screens.

Besides, he adds, it's

actually harder to do prog-

rammes are easy to

make," the effervescent

Singapore-born veteran of

Australian, Singaporean

and Hong Kong broad-

casting said in an inter-

creativity. You point the

camera and you ask the

actors to take their clothes

It can work out cheap-

er, too. With a group of

silent partners, some with

China connections, Chua

has launched CETV with

\$30 million and a staff of

130 — a lean operation by

satellite television stan-

profit in two to three

years' time," he said.

costs very well. I'm a

programming person my-

In the next year, CETV

expects to produce more

than 1.000 hours of new

programming, com-

plemented by co-

productions and "careful-

ly selected imports from

We're able to control our

"We hope to make a

dards.

"You don't need

Sex and violence prog-

rammes his way.

By Robert MacPherson Agence France Presse

HONG KONG - By making people happy, Hong Kong Television maestro Robert Chua thinks his latest venture can make money in two to three years.

Since December his China Entertainment Television (CETV) has been dishing out a 24-hour diet of wholesome family shows, telecast by satellite in an initial estimated audience of eight million Chinese households in East Asia.

"No sex, no violence, no news," is China's mot-to, and he sticks to it with a line-up of variety, soap operas, game shows, talk shows, country music videos and the odd movie. One-third of the program-ming is produced in-

CETV's flagship programme, tellingly, is called Happy Times, co-hosted by the grande game of Hong Kong television, Lydia Sum, affectionately known to her many fans as "Fei-Fei" (Chubby).

Chua's kind of squeakyclean programming almost guarantees that Beijing's propaganda chiefs will never pull the plug on Hong Kong-based CETV's all-important redistribution by cable in

the West." But Chua likes to see it

The market is crowded. Star TV, controlled by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Ltd., was first to leap into the Mandarinspeaking market with its Chinese Channel, supplemented with an encrypted Chinese movie channel seen in Taiwan.

Television Broadcasts International, whose Hong Kong parent Television Broadcast Ltd. (TVB) produces more Chinese programming than China itself, debuted

Then came informationbased China Television Networks, related by ownership to the liberal Hong Kong newspaper Ming Pan. Like TVB International, it has two channels.

But Chua is not put off by the competition. "At the moment, there's still room," he said. "Moneywise, there's still room. You just have to do well in programming. That's all."

Some revenue is starting to come in, with CETV identifying Proctor and Gamble, Austria's Launda Air, the Beijingcontrolled Hong Kong newspaper Wen Wei Po and a Chinese property firm as "major advertis-

CETV publicity material calls the network the

"ideal programming environment for today's socially responsible adver-

tisers. Chua is perhaps best known in Hong Kong for helping movie mogul Sir Run Run Shaw launch TVB in the late 1960s and creating its two most successful shows: Enjoy Yourself Tonight and the Miss Hong Kong beauty

He went independent in 1974 and built up influential contacts with China, becoming the first distri-butor of foreign-language programming to its lackluster state-run television stations.

But these days he's cheered by letters sent in by CETV's first viewers in 180 cities in China, including a couple in a northern village who named their newborn baby Huayu the station's Chinese

In the future, Chua sees CETV encrypting its signals next year, adding a second channel, and signing distribution deals in Europe and North America aimed at overseas Chinese communities there — but he's no in a

"I'd rather be very, very successful and keep our size than be huge and lose money," she said.

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# The catch

By Jean-Claude Elias

Upon being attractively priced and feature laden products, how many times did you tell yourself "where's the catch"? Depending on the complexity or the simplicity of the product, sales people can more or less easily hide the catch.

Those who design and prepare advertisements for television or magazines have become very clever at presenting goods in an appealing format. boosting the advantages. "overlooking" the weaknesses while always observing legality.

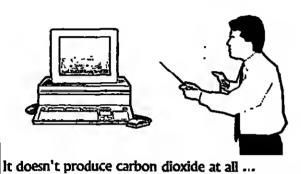
PCs (personal computers) and all related products are a heaven for vendors trying to lure the prospect into a good deal (for whom?). Take colour printers for instance. The only machines that can currently produce quality output in full. lasting colours, on plain paper. at high resolution and at reasonable speed are high end laser printers. Prices start at JD 5.000. Suppliers however are offering a wide range of colour printers starting at JD 300.

Whatever colour printer the user can purcahse between JD 300 and 1,000 has a trade-off. The resolution may be poor or colours may bleed. The ink may take several minutes to dry or will only work on specially coated, expensive paper. Some of these low cost printers take as much as 20 or 30 minutes to produce a full-coloured page. And so forth.

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I recently installed a software, called sequencer, I intended to use for computer-based music production. The programme was supposed to allow me to record music from synthesizers — like most sequencers do - and also to simultaneously run



chip talk

digitised sound waves stored on the hard disk. a feature that would have been very useful to me. Upon testing it. I discovered that it could only activate very short wave files, a few seconds long. In order to run a standard, 3 or 4 minutes song for example, I would need more than 32 MB (32 million characters) or memory. Very rarely are PCs equipped with such a huge amount of memory. Most of them have 4 or 8 MB and exceptionally 16 MB.

While you usually get your money's worth of goods, it's still frustrating not to get exactly what you have in mind or what you thought you were buying. PCs characteristics have become complicated. Unless you are a professional or regularly read specialised magazines and follow the market, it's easy to be fooled by flashy figures and specifications. I know people who have acquired CD-ROM, computer laser discs, fascinated by the amount of data they could hold (about 700 MB each). They did not know however that one cannot record on them or erase them like one would do with a standard, magnetic hard disk. CD-ROM are read-only devices that you buy pre-recorded.

The only sensible attitude is not to jump on a new product and try to know the whole story before making any decision. Reading good publications like Byte, Windows Magazine, PC Pro. PC Magazine, Personal Computing World and others can be a great help for all those about to make a new purchase decision. They are always updated with the latest information and prices, are well written and regularly publish un-biased technical tests and comparison reports. Even seasoned professionals use them as a reference. Spending five or six dinars on such a magazine can be informative, enlightening and may save you some disappointment by helping you choose the right product.

# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### **FACTS & FIGURES**

The universe is so big that it would take a ray of light 10.000 million years to reach from the furthest region we can observe. The nearest star. Proxima Centuuri, is 414 light years (40 million million kilometres) away.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Earth is not completely round, but is flattened by 42 kilometres between the poles. The most powerful known volcanic explosion was in about 1470 BC on the island of Thera. Greece. The explosion produced a tsunami (tidal wave) 54 metres high.

\* \* \* \* \*

The fastest winds are the jet streams, which blow at speeds of up to 500 kilometres per hour high ahove the Earth. The highest recorded temperature on the ground is 58°C in Libya. The lowest is -89°C in Antarctica.

\* \* \* \* \*

The average height of the land above the sea is 7.501 metres. The largest island is Greenland, which has an urea of 2.180,000 square kilometres. Greenland and most other islands that lie in the middle of oceans do not form part of any continent.

\*\* \* \* \* \*

A year on Mercury lasts 88 earth-days: a year on Pluto lasts 248 earth-years. Although Saturn is huge, its force of gravity is only slightly more than earth.

\* \* \* \* \*

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- May I come in? Hal tasmah lee bid'dukhool? Please. do. Tafaddal. — Do you mind if I smoke? Hal yudeeroka tad'kheeni?
- No. I don't. - Do you see what I mean? Hal todrik ma aani? — Yes. I do. Na am/Ajal.
- What do you think of this watch? Ma ra'yoka fee hathehis-sa'a?
- It's extremely fantastic. Innaha ra'e'a jiddan. — What do you do for a living? Matha ta'f'al tetaksaba ayshak?
- I have a small shop for selling old clothes and Amlik mahallan saghiran le'bay al-malabess wal-
- ah'theyal qadima. — Thanks a lot. Shukran iazeelan. Don't mention it. La shukran ala wajib.

\* \* \* \* \*

Andrew Commission of the second secon

### TIME FOR FUN

**★ SPOILED GIRL:** I hate seeing his face. He looks

FATHER: Who is it, my dear? Is he the doorman or the porter?

DAUGHTER: Oh. dad! I'm not kidding. He's my FATHER: Don't trouble yourself with such trifles. He II soon rid of them ugainst his will the moment you marry him!!

Control of the section of the Care

\* \* \* \* \*

\* When Joha's wife finished washing the family's clothes, she began to hung them on a long rope at the top of a high huilding. A few moments pussed when Joha noticed his shirt falling down on the

JOHA: Hurrah! Hurrah! Cheer up. my sweetheart. WIFE: What happened, my deur? JOHA: I've been saved. I'm still alive. Had I worn this shirt. I'd have been dead.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* MOTHER: Don't disturb me and stop playing with the alarm clock.

SON: Don't worry, mum. I do that so as to get our neighbours know that there's a telephone in our

\* \* \* \* \*

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- 1. Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are linked by which canal?
- 2. Yahusame is a Japanese version of which sport?
- 3. Which hreed of dog is considered to be the tallest?
- 4. To whom was Churchill referring when he said "There he stalks, that Wuthering Height."
- 5. When was the term "Concentration Camp" first used?

6. What is the English word for the Italian "Zingaro?"

\* \* \* \* \*

### **PUZZLES**

ALPHABET SOUP

(A) Use any letter from the alphabet that gives these sentences some sense:

- 1. She likes a round neck, but I like a .....
- 2. This store has everything from A to .....
- 3. My mother likes to drink .....
- 4. I..... the ..... (stinging insect).
- 5. ..... marks the spot.

### \* \* \* \* \*

(B) 7777....!!

A certain number, consisting entirely of sevens, is divisible by 199. It is required to determine the last four figures of the quotient, without finding the whole quotient.

# Amman through a rear window

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

I pity myself sometimes for believing in the power of art, architecture and engineering to give form to a vision of our civilisation at its highest level. Life in this city has become a joke. Just as well, this totally befits those who will one day have the future as they run wild and demolish a university campus for reasons which were supposed to have been behind for the sake of a national unity we were, and are always supposed to nurture. Everything we build, from our sometimes bland and always foolish domestic architecture to the folly we call commercial architecture, reflects our people's greed and their basic anxiety of losing what they have accumulated materially.

Whether by default or by design, physical Amman is slowly turning into the Los Angeles of Jordan. By this I mean that it is becoming a clustered city where it is becoming impossible to travel from one end of it to the other without driving on four and five-lane stretches of tarmac that run in the midst of unused

land, sometimes right there in the centre of the city. All this is of course the crowning achievement of a planning policy of creating centres of activity around commercial hubs where half way through, the centre is abandoned in favour of a new location. We created Sweifieh, left it a mess and moved on to create what we know as Abdoun which we are now slowly abandoning in favour of new sites along the Salt

But in our haste, what kind of buildings and spaces are we creating for the future? How will the buildings we are creating today look in thirty years' time? What will we think of them then? How will the expressways we are creating today in the middle of our cities be used then?

These are all fair questions that anyone who wonders about life in the future has the right to ask. We all travel abroad to Europe because we enjoy the narrow streets and the beauty of the articulately detailed facades of its buildings. So how will our lovely cubic apartment buildings with their pitiful exterior make us. and our visitors, feel 30 years from today. What sort of emotions will they stir in us. if

How will the new commercial hub of today that is the ex-Gardens Street look and feel in 30 years time? Will it retain its present "grandeur" or will it be perceived as the monstrosity that it always has been, a ten-lane traffic artery with, mostly, ugly commercial structures that, along with the street, have no respect for the needs and comfort of people.

Are these really the buildings that will carry us into the 21st century and beyond? Will they even still be habitable in 30 years time? Will we be able to modify them to suit our needs in the year 2030? Will we even

These questions are not only necessary if we are to re-examine the way we design our buildings in the present time, but are also legitimate if the state of our architecture is anything to go by. We need a system where architects who design irresponsibly for clients who care for profit and sickening extravagance rather than beauty are made accountable to the society for which and in which they live and practice.

# JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 13

1:00 Dennis The Menace

1:30 My Secret Identity

2:00 N.B.A.

3:00 Survival

3:50 Blue Heelers 4:30 French Programme

7:30 The Album Show

8:00 Blue Revolution

9:15 E.N.G

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film - She Woke Up 12:00 Burning Shores

Friday, April 14

1:00 Lift Off

1:30 Why Didn't 1 Think Of That?

2:00 A Year In The Life 2:45 Feature Film - Choices

4:15 White Fang

4:45 French Programme

7:30 African Skies

8:00 Movie Magic

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 The Law And Harry McGraw

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary - Mini Dragons

"Malaysia"

11:30 Feature Film - Flight Of Black Angel Saturday, April 15 2:00 Dog City

2:30 Harry And The Hendersons

3:00 Witoess To Survival

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary - Life In The Freezer

9:00 Documentary — Dive The World 9:15 Cape Rebel

8:30 The Nanny

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film - Across The Red Night 12:00 Тапатега

### Sunday, April 16

2:00 Animated Classics - Pinnocchio

3:00 Feature Film — Cry Wilderness 4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Masterpieces Of Literature

8:30 Almost Home

9:10 The Other Side Of Paradise 10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Runaway Father

12:00 The Hidden Room 12:30 Grace And Favour

Monday, April 17

2:00 Madeline

2:30 Munster's Today

3:00 Hard Time On Planet Earth 3:50 Pals

4:15 The Language Of Animals

4:30 Tarzan 5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Voyager

8:30 Laurie Hill

9:10 South Beach

10:20 Strauss Dynasty

11:20 Feature Film - Nowhere To Hide Tuesday, April 18

10:00 News In English

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 1 Witness Video

3:30 Road To Avonlea

5:00 French Programme

4:30 Tarzan

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Nature Of Things

8:30 Desmond's

9:10 Jack The Ripper

10:00 News In English 10:20 Seaforth

12:00 Lonesome Dove

Wednesday, 19 2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 Hot Shots

3:00 Beakman's World

3:30 Movies, Games And Videos

4:00 Amazing Stories

4:30 Tarzan 5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Marvellous Machine - Stomach and Intestine

8:30 GP

9:15 Berlin Break

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prism

10:40 Dandelion Dead

11:30 Keeping Up Appearances

Moor mosaic burch of St. depicting erdanian ni beileds Piters: Xas-Pia'a (Umm at top.

diphia (Amdie centre. daba at the

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# Windo Inspired art and scholarship that transcends time, space and culture

i continue that anyone to Umm Al-Rasas Mayfa'ah l Factoria Decause we enjoy Gli Scavi Del Complesso Di Santo Stefano By Michele Piccirillo and Eugenio Alliata

Jenuty of the article St. Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Jerusalem 1994 teel 30 least 376 pp. colour plates \$80 (available at Mt. Nebo)

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> A drawing of part of the floor mosaic in the Church of St. Stephen depicting three Jordanian towns labelled in Greek letters: Kastron Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) at top, Philadelphia (Amman) in the centre, and Madaba at the bottom.

splendid volume. The English-speaking reader may wonder why an Italian-language book is

being reviewed in the Jordan Times. The answer is that this book is of such fine quality, wide scope and coherent presentation that it successfully transcends the language barrier, and deserves to be brought to the attention of a wide audience.

Brief summaries in English and Arabic at the end of the book give an overview of the site's history and archaeological findings, especially its spectacular mosaic floors. The use of dual English and Italian language captions on most photos, plans and drawings is a very useful tech-nique that makes the content of the book easily appreciated by English speaking readers.

With stunning fullcolour photographs and many detailed plans and drawings, the book presents the findings of the last eight years of ex-cavations at Umm Er-Rasas — but it also does much more than this. It effectively captures the mystery and the thrill of discovery that are among the inherent attractions of archaeology, to both the specialist scholar and the interested lay per-

The site of Umm Er-Rasas, southeast of Madaba, comprises a walled town and an adjacent open settlement that were first recorded in the modern era by Seetzen in 1807. The publication of this book not only presents the findings of the St. Stephen's Church Complex excavations that have been conducted under the direction of the Franciscan Fathers, in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities; it also brings together all the historical hints and threads that scholars have assessed during the past 188 years, on their way to firmly identifying Umm Er-Rasas as the biblical site of Mepha'at, the fortified Roman site of Mephaa, and the Islamic era site of Maypha'a.

An English-speaking reader of the book is likely to find himself or herself, as I did, flipping through the pages of the book reading the cap-tions under the numerous drawings and photos, and constantly trying to put together the

pieces of the puzzle that has been resolved thanks to the fine fieldwork and scholarship of Piccirillo and Alliata.

If there is a single theme that permeates the history of this important site, it is the theme of transcendance, of a single place that transcends time, geography, culture and religion. The major remains at the site date from the Byzantino period, and the St. Stephen's Church Complex itself appears to date from around 587 AD until its abandonment in the 9th century.

wider Middle Eastern hinterland, in terms of commerce, politics, security and even national identity.

The site's transcendance of time is captured in the artifacts that have been recovered from several different periods. From the time of the biblical era town of Mepha'at are some pottery sherds and remains of a pillar, dating from the Iron Age II era in the 7th/6th centuries BC. Thamudic and Nabatean inscriptions, a sculptured lamb, coins and architectural elements

### **BOOK REVIEW**

The fact that the church and its Christian community existed well into the early Islamic period repeats a theme that has often defined the land of Jordan, in ancient times and today - the theme of cultural and religious pluralism, of people of different cultural traditions and faiths coexisting in rela-tive peace and harmony.

The mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen is renowned for its depiction of cities from the east and west banks of the Jordan River, and also from Egypt. This is another theme that pertains to the ancient and modern history of the inhabitants of this region — that the people of the land of Jordan survived and even flourished when they related to their



Drawing of the depiction of Kastron Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

time just before the during the early Roman era, while the Roman period itself is represented by pottery sherds and an

town, with its many churches, extensive residential quarters and lone tower north of the main site, represents the dominant remains that can be visited today. This book will be most interesting to students of the Byzantine period, especially of the rich mosaics dating from the 6th-8th centuries. The early Islamic townsite is also coming to light as the excavations continue, and the archaeological material is confirming the presence of a town that has been long known from several different Islamic era literary sources.

A mid-8th century AD account of the life of the Prophet Mohammad recounts the tale of a man from Mecca, Zayd Ibn Amr, who left Mecca immediately before the Islamic era to seek the true religion of Abraham. In his travels, it is told, he visited a monk in the town of "Mayfa'ah, of the land of Al Balga", but he died on his return journey to Mecca. The monk told him that a prophet would soon arrive in his lands and would bring with him the true religion of Abraham - a prophecy of the advent of Islam. A later 17th century Islamic account also speaks of a monk at Mepha'a who met the young Mohammad himself and prophecised his mission. The site of this ancient

town that was known from biblical, Roman and Islamic accounts had never been firmly identified, until the present Franciscan excavations turned up depictions of the town in the mosaic floors of two churches, both labelled in Greek with the name "Kastron Mepha'a", meaning the

probably date from the inscription fragment. The Byzantine era

Church of the Lions. The identification of modern Umm Er-Rasas/ Byzantine Kastron Mepha'a with the biblical Mepha'a-ath (a Levitical city of refuge in the territory of the tribe of Reuben on the Moabite plain, according to strengthened by the Iron Age finds. It then became certain that Umm Er-Rasas was also the Roman town-camp of Mephaa with its auxiliary cavalry unit, whose existence in this region is known from several Roman era documents, especially the early 4th century Onomasticon, by Eusebius, and the early 5th century Notitia Dignitatum map of Ro-

> Arabian provinces. This piecing together of a puzzle that has challenged scholars from the last 188 years, since Seetzen first recorded the site of Umm Er-Rasas. is typical of the thrill of discovery that makes archaeology such a special discipline that satisfies scholars as well as

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10 Bostra Praefectus legionis tertine Cyrenuicae

11 Diatenes Equites sagittarii indigenae

Praefectus legionis quartae Martiae

Part of the Notitia Dignitatum map showing Roman era legionary camps and fortified towns in the Province of

ordinary lay people. This book's value is that it captures this phefortified camp or townsite of Mepha'a. In fact, the name Kastron Mepha'a appears four times in Greek inscripnomenon, while taking the reader on an exciting journey of discovery, intions in the excavated spiration and beautiful remains of the Church of St. Stephen and the works of art that spans several cultures, religions, landscapes and

millennia. Like the . Mosaics\_of Jordan book that was written by Father Piccirillo and published last year by the American Centre of Oriental Research, this volume will item one day because of the sheer power and beauty of the full-page, four-colour photographs of the mosaic floors, both entire floors and close-ups. Only in volumes such as this can people appreciate the full artistic and even spiritual merit of the mosaics of Jordan, given the high quality photography and printing that permit us to scan an entire floor man towns/camps in the mosaic as a single creative whole.

Another noteworthy feature of this book is the fact that it was sponsored by five Italian private companies whose donations enjoyed tax exempt status under enlightened Italian law. The five companies (Ballestra SpA, Massolini SpA, Rabobank Italia,

Arabia. Umm Er-Rasas is depicted as number 8 (in the centre), named as "Mefa" in the legend at right.

Sangemini SpA, and Tre Pi SpA) should be recognised and thanked for their public spiritedness. Their support for this kind of wide public dissemination of scholarly works ultimately will be as important to the public's appreciation and protection of our heritage as the archaeological excavations themselves. This book is a credit to

Rami G. Khouri

its price.

all those who have been

associated with it, and it

will surely help to boost

yet further the rising

standards of scholarly

publishing that Jordan

has enjoyed in recent

years. It is only available

for the moment at Mt.

Nebo, and is well worth

# Thoughts for this week

When you make your peace with authority, you become authority - Jim Morrison, American rock singer (1943-1971).

Worry. How pointless. I know the theory is that all this concern for the frustrated aged or forgotten Chinese children helps to change attitudes and to create at least an atmosphere in which something might happen... but I wonder if it doesn't work the other way round as well.... you get too used to it. You just shrug — Katherine Whitehorn, British newspaper columnist.

I could prove God statistically. Take the human body alone — the chances that all the functions of an individual would just happen is a statistical monstrosity — George H. Gallup, American polister (1901-

Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better - Florence Nightingale, English nursing

Religion is love; in no case is it logic - Beatrice Potter Webb, English sociologist (1858-1943).

# Jordan is on- ramp to information superhighway

By Habib Khan Special to the Jordan Times

the Information Superhighway (ISH) and its functioning because ISH is the ultimate aspiration of any information technology (IT) effort in the world. It allows users to reach information of any type from any where in the world. This is made possible by reinforcing the known as the Internet. mode of operation of In-

Internet, the worldwide system of computer net-ISH. It contains separateof many sizes and types. been made possible with but not remote telnet, beuse of high speed tele- cause it does not support

Jordan needs to focus on phone lines. fibre-optic connections, and satellite links.

This high level of connectivity fosters an unparalleled degree of communication, collaboration, resource sharing, and information access. There is no one network

rather various regional nets are all interconnected communicating under the protocol called "TCP/IP." works is the foundation of The Internet provides electronic mail (E-Mail). ly administered networks files transfer (FTP), remole logia or telnet, a Each of these networks feature for the traveller. onsists of tens of Another network, Bilnet. housands of computers. consists of systems con-There are more than 35 nected point-to-point an there made of Internet nillion individual users of links. all running the the Internet in 120 coun- "NJE" protocol. Bitnet ries. This networking has allows E-Mail and FTP.

the TCP/IP protocol. Internet emerged in

U.S.A. as a result of the military's desire to ensure uniterrupted communication, even in case of a war. Today scientists are working to improve and enhance its functioning. Ultimately it will be shaped into what Vice President Al Gore calls the Information Superhighway of the next century. The new features will include sound, pictures, and videos etc. that can be retrieved by a user by the click of a button. A user in Jordan via Internet can use any public or research database around the world in a matter of seconds. Also, a reason can exchange ideas with any where in the world. Internet does not have geographical, national, or other kinds of boundaries. li is everywhere.

These unique features of Internet have made it an essential component of education and science. Today, an educational institution without access to Internet is considered 'deficient." All educational institutions subscribe to Internet and pay а поminal annual fee. Students and faculty thus use Internet free of charge. It is spreading very fast. countries that did not have the link, are establishing connection to Internet to be in touch with recent developments. Various institutions in U.S.A. offer courses through Internet. Any one with access to Internet can enrol in these courses without leaving his/her home. Its universal existence and availability in the neighbouring countries make it imperative for Jordan to establish this

Jordan has not been on

recently established E-Mail service discussed later. Among the educational institutions, only some universities with thorough programmes in compueter sciences, use local area network (LAN) to share software. Unfortunately none of these LANs are interconnected, so no cross talking on any campus. To pave the way for making a junction with Internet, all universities will need to bridge their LANs together to create a new form of communication environment. This will enable teachers to post messages and students can be encouraged to respond to them. Consequently, it will help in developing a culture of E-Mail that is obviously step one to Internet. There is no shortage of expertise in Jordan, with acouple of high speed mod-

Internet so far except a

ems. routers. and using on-campus telephone lines, this form of communication can be set up soon. Luckily some universities have an Ammantelephone number that can reduce communication charges between these universities. Once universities are on "Jordanet" they can share their resources. Say, for example, the CD-ROM collection of the University of Jordan can be one item on Jordanet.

Simultaneously policy makers in Jordan will need to make a decision for establishing a regular on-line connection to Internet. Internet is available in the country next door. Therefore, the most logical and probably costeffective point of connection to the Internet is Israel. It will not only realise the goal of access to Internet. but will be a

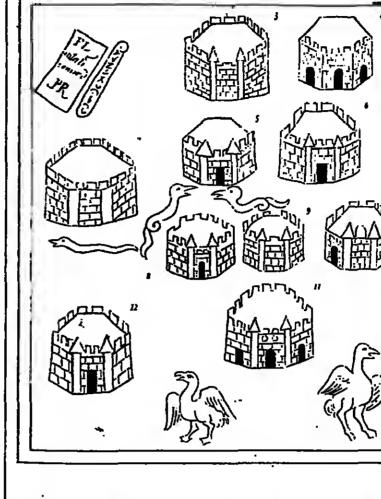
significant contribution to reinforce the peace process between the two na-

Regarding E-Mail, re-

cently a private company. NETS, has made it possible to have access to Internet in Jordan. With more than 200 members, NETS provides a window to the outside world. Members pay a monthly subscription fee and nominal charge for each usage. They can send E-Mail any time of the day to a location in Amman via a modem, whereas the real exchange of information with Internet takes place at fixed times of the day. The service is remarkable for exchanging routine messages. Using this service for research, however, may not be cost effective, which strongly supports the case for linkage with Internet within the public sector. NETS is a

quicker and an efficient way of communication but is not a replacement of Internet.

With Internet technology. education in Jordan will get closer to some prestigious institutions in the world. Once in place it will be essential to ensure optimum use of this media. This will require a serious review of current strategies and will demand new approaches to education in Jordan to be devised. Consequently, the Ministry of Education should provide leadership by engaging experts to chalk out a plan of action. A national strategy needs to be devised on Internet. educational computing, and new approaches to education in an electronic culture. All this will ensure an easy on-ramp from Jordan to ISH through the Internet and ensure



# The state: Women's protector or controller?

Women, Islam And The State Edited by Deniz Kandiyoti, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991, 276 pages, soft cover \$19.95

Women, Islam And The State refutes the assumption that the women's question is a narrow or secondary issue. By focusing on the role of the state, the essays in this book reveal the women's question to be part of the central dynamics whereby societies develop and function. Defining women's role has been a significant aspect of the state-building and modernisation processes undertaken in most of the nine countries covered in the book. In turn, women's situation is largely determined by the state's policy, including the extent to which it confronts, accomodates or relies on

Despite the precision of the analysis put forth, the book offers no magic solutions to the problem of women's oppression, except for subtle hints that progress can be made only if women organise independently. Nor is there a uniform explanation for women's current subordinate status, for conditions vary widely from country to country. The policy of some states (Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Egypt) has been quite contradictory. In other cases, communal conflicts have complicated matters (Lebanon, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh).

The essay on South Yemen (1967-88) is something of an exception, since it is the only state covered which adopted Soviet-style socialism. Despite very backward conditions, South Yemen developed a radical legal system which brought many liberating benefits to women, without the state engaging in head-on confrontation with Islam. This was, however, a short-lived phenomenon; unification with the North was followed by increased fundamentalism and setbacks for women's rights.

What unites the eight women academics who contributed to Women, Islam And The State is shared dissatisfaction with the lack of historical context in much of what has been written about women in Muslim societies.

This lack has led to a "paradoxical convergence between Western orientalists, whose ahistorical and ethnocentric depictions of Muslim societies have been the subject of extensive critique, and Muslim feminists and scholars with a genuine interest in radical change" (p. 1). To avoid such pitfalls, the book deals with Islam "not as a set of abstract beliefs concerning relations between individuals and a putative divine being, but as an ideological system that enjoins and legitimates forms of social practice" (p. 238). Completely absent are the familiar accounts of what the Koran says about women in this or that verse. Instead the spotlight is on the political actors and intellectuals — male and female, religious and secular, nationalist and communalist, modernist and traditionalist - who have shaped public debate and policy in the countries concerned from the end of the last century until the present.

In the course of their respective modernisation chemes, Alaturk's lurkey, the Shah's Iran and Nasser's Egypt all granted women new rights simultaneous with blocking their autonomous initiatives. Nominally, women gained access to education, jobs, political representation and a larger measure of independence from their families. But ultimately,

CHILL OUT! By Penni Singleton ACROSS

REVIEW

BOOK

state intervention in the private sphere aimed at breaking down traditional religious and kinship ties in favour of a new form of social control. Previously subordinated to individual male family members, women now became the legal subordinates of "all men," i.e., state authority. It remains an open question whether such benevolent paternalism fostered or hindered women's liberation.

Improvement in women's legal status is only one side of the coin. In many countries, mass poverty is an overriding factor preventing the majority of women from utilising new opportunities offered by state legislation.

Critics of the shah's regime have even argued that women's oppression intensified with the socioeconomic changes wrought by his modernisation

In Iran, Turkey and post-Nasser Egypt, modemisation imposed from above was associated with Westernisation. This eventually elicited a backlash which took religious form, since "Islam has been a consistent vehicle for popular classes to express their alienation from 'Westernised' elites" (p. 8). In this context, women's liberation was viewed as an imported idea. While technological modernisation was accepted as inevitable, encroachments on the private sphere were not. Family relations, and especially women's status herein, became the last bastion for societies seeking to retain their authenticity and integrity in a rapidly changing Western-dominated

Due to their child-bearing and rearing role, women are regarded as the receptacle and vehicle of cultural authenticity; accordingly, they became the main targets of Islamisation drives in the late 70s. The Islamic Republic in Iran provides a prime example of the results.

In the course of analysing women's situation, the book makes a valuable contribution to current discussions about Islam's revival. In an essay on Iran, Afsaneh Najmabadi rejects many of the usual explanations for this phenomenon. If the new Islamic movements arise from the religion itself, she queries, why then are they stronger now than in the past when societies were more bound by religious norms? Najmabadi also rejects the migration of deeply religious peasants into the cities as a main cause. since the social base of the new Islamic movements is the urban middle and lower class, not the peasantry.

Instead, Najmabadi explains the resurgence of Islam as "a conscious political rejection of the West and the political models associated with it (be they nationalism, socialism, parliamentary democracy, etc.) in favour of the construction of an Islamic

In her view, this constitutes "a shift from mod-ernisation as the central project and concern of society to moral purification and ideological recon-

struction" (p. 64).

The focus of Women, Islam And The State should make it of interest to all those who are concerned about women's rights. Many of the problems and paradoxes of the societies analysed also exist in Jordan, though in more subtle form. While modern human conditions prevail in many fields, the daily lives of large numbers of women remain governed by outdated, restrictive laws and norms.

Sally Bland

### Trick Or Treason: The October Surprise Mystery

By Robert Parry New York: Sheridan Square Press, 1993 350 pages, hardback \$24.95

Robert Parry is an investigative reporter who has worked for Associated Press, Newsweek and the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). Specialising in national security issues, he wrote some of the ground-breaking stories about the Iran-contra scan-dal. In Trick Or Treason, he recounts his efforts on behalf of PBS's Frontline documentary programme to get to the bottom of allegations that Reagan Republicans engaged in large-scale deception well prior to the dirty deals of Iran-contra.

The October Surprise is the name given to a

non-event, something that never happened. It refers to the possibility that the Carter administration might have obtained the release of the U.S. hostages held in Tehran, in October of 1980, one month before the U.S. presidential elections. Obviously, an "October Surprise" would have enhanced Jimmy Carter's chances for reelection considerably. In the event. Ronald Reagan defeated the incumbent president. and the hostages were not released until the very day he was inaugurated. The timing of the release. coupled with allegations that have surfaced intermittently since 1980, gave rise to much speculation: Had members of Reagan's campaign staff worked out a deal with the Iranians to delay the hotages' release, thus thwarting any potential "October Surprise" and ensuring Carter's defeat?

As a matter of fact, the Israelis shipped U.S. military equipment to the Islamic Republic in October 1980, in contravention of the Carter administration's embargo on Iran. But were these shipments strictly a Mossad affair? Or were they arranged in coordination with Reagan's campaign staff which was headed by career intelligence officer. William Casey, who subsequently became CIA chief and a main player in the Iran-contra affair?

Trick Or Treason reviews the multiple allegations, indications and theories that the Reagan Republicans did indeed cut a deal to provide the Iranians with arms in return for a delayed hostage release. But the problem, as Roberty Parry sees it, is that most of those claiming first-hand knowledge of events would make unreliable witnesses. They are a motley collection of arms merchants and ex-Mossad or CIA operatives, some of whom might have personal interests in spreading disinformation. On the other hand, "reliable sources" — U.S., Israeli, French and other government officials — were either unable or unwilling to give definite testimony. And there was no smoking gun or corpse to prove that a deal had ever been reached.

So the mystery remains a mystery. The reader wades through pages of tantalising, but elusive and sometimes evasive. interviews with arms merchants, spies and officials in the U.S., Israel. Europe and Iran; as well as loads of circumstantial evidence. Towards the end, one wonders why Parry published the book at all, aside from the obvious reason of recouping the trouble he went to.

Then in the last chapters. Parry more explicitly sets forth his own convictions. He is a serious journalist committed to the need for honesty in government, the public's right to know and the media's role herein. In the course of his two-and-a-half year investigation, he struggled to keep an open mind and examine all data pertaining to the "October Surprise Mystery" objectively.
In the end he was shocked by the intensity with

which Republican circles resisted investigation of the affair. After all. if there was no scandal, they should be forthcoming with information to disprove the

# The Uctober

allegations. Instead, a wall of utmost secrecy was wrapped around the facts and, most especially, the doings and whereabouts of William Casey and

George Bush in the autumn of 1980.

Equally. Parry was appalled by the complicity of the Democratic Party establishment and mainstream journalists in putting a lid on the affair rather than pursuing the truth: "I could not forget that the Iran-contra scandal had broken open in Washington in 1986 not because of the investigative reporting that a few of us were doing into Oliver North's secret network. The story finally cracked through the government denials because a teenaged army draftee in Nicaragua shot down a supply plane in October 1986. A month later, again no thanks to American reporters, a newspaper in Lebanon disclosed President Reagan's arms-for-hostage deals in Iran... By the end of the Reagan-Bush era, it seemed, journalists were not only acquiescing in the theft of American history, they sometimes were advocating

" (pp. 327-8). The "October Surprise Mystery" may never be solved. As Parry notes, "Clinton's promise to renew American democracy did not include a commitment to get to the truth about the national security scandals and mysteries that had spanned the Reagan-Bush era (p. 329). 11.10

However, Parry himself suffers from certain biases prevalent among U.S. journalists, which impede his analysis. The time span of his investigation partially parallels the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and war on Iraq, but he never questions the correctness of U.S. interventionism, even though this is what spawns the sordid dealings which he decries. One cannot fault Parry for not solving the "October Surprise Mystery." But had he connected the facts he recounts about the workings of the White House, CIA and international arms market, with a more critical evaluation of U.S. foreigns policy goals, he might have written a more interesting book.

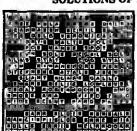
Sally Bland

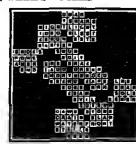
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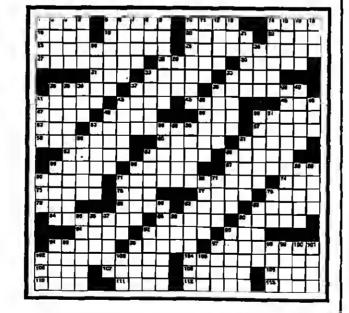


Diagramless 19 x /9 By Frances Burton

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE







Last Wask's Cryptograms

 Wise owl spots happy young poppy playing with poor, holploss gopher, hoots shrilly.
 If you can smile while others fret and wail, maybe you don't appreciate the problem.

 Too much deht is likely to push peoplo, companies and our country loto bankruptey. Some prudent pooplo ovaluate investments by breadth and depth analysis.

GRYPTOGRAMS 1. WGYSNJ EGLAS EXCOTS WXQTJ SS ANLPXT ZSNLRBD RS HTBWSHY QL G ZSLZTSR WSB EQP YSLTD.

2. FULTUFAQY CRYPTOGAERU ZQECY YQZYS CRYP CRETO AUGA GFL TES - PALCRYPI

S.LG ESIMOGY, YOSVEKOLDMY FOUN BUNG SY DAMP HOLE, EGE YDSVSFZLOMY ZSP HMINVUE SENSOH SCHMO CAMZ. - By &C. Doyle

4.ZRORIK: ONEO OLOS SNSP ZAP. BETON EFT WAY CWWP ETS EGROLPICK ECLIPST ECC

# Tabloid TV talk shows turn murderous

Scott Amedure, 32, went to a taping of a tabloid talk show assuming the secret admirer he would meet was a woman. Instead Jon Schmitz, 24, revealed that he had a crush on Amedure.

But before that edition of the Jenny Jones show could be broadcast, Schmitz sent a love note to Amedure, who responded by shooting him dead. The otherwise unre-

markable killing in a Detroit suburb has raised questions about tabloid talk shows like Jenny Jones and the role that confrontation and emotional turmoil play in attracting viewers whose interest seems purely voyeuristic.

There are about 20 talk shows whose topics range from the serious to the sleazy, with the selaze predominating when audi-

NEW YORK (AFP) - ences begin to slip away. About 40 million viewers tune in daily.

Sex and relationships are a favourite topic, with racism and drugs not far behind.

For example, of the 15 shows broadcast Thursday, March 30, topics included computer stalking. hermaphrodites, women who cheat, teens who swap sex partners and John Bobbitt, who became an actor in porn films after his wife cut off his penis.

In typical recent shows. a young woman announced to her mother that they shared a lover. who emerged then from the wings; a man told his wife that he married her for her money and a woman told her sister that she was pregnant by the

sister's boyfriend, "The guests are people leave." says sociologist Vicki Abt, who recently wrote a book entitled The Shameless World Of Phil. Sally and Oprah: Television Talk Shows and The Deconstructing Of Socie-

ty. By appearing on tele-vision, they get to be a celebrity. "We receive hundreds of applications for each show," says Glenda Shaw, a producer for the New York-produced show

Rolonda. While acknowledging that an expense-paid trip to New York or Chicago where most of the shows are taped - is a big draw for guests. Shaw says there are other attrac-

"A lot of people come on because they can't afford therapy. It's a place for them to air their differences," she added.

"It's the only forum on to get it."

who have nothing to TV where everyday people can be part of the show," says Jerry Spnnger, whose show is the second most populat nationwide. "It's honest,

raw emotion. Producers try to be good Samaritans but are also cautious.

They hire security guards for guests, and some ask psychologists to be on hand to help with any trauma that may result. Virtually all require guests to sign release forms promising the show that they will not sue. But confrontation is en-

couraged. Critics such as Roger Ailes, owner of the Amer :: ica's Talking cable chan ... nel, pans the shows 25 👺 being "an endless parameter of people who want their of the property of fame no a 15 minutes of fame 10 matter how badly they have to humiliate themselves

### **ANSWERS**

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Welland Ship Canal.

2. Archery. The contestants shoot at a small target

from a trotting horse. Irish wolfhound.

4. Lord Reith

(A) I- V

5. During the Boer War. The name was given to centres where Boer civilians were interned hy Kitchener from 1900-1902.

6. Gipsy. Hence Zingaresca, a gipsy song.

\* \* \* \* \* **PUZZLES** 

4- C. B (B) 199  $\times$  the quotient = the number 7777....) i.e.  $200 \times the quotient - the quotient = the numbet.$ Let A. B. C. D he the last four figures of the quotient. Then the quotient multiplied by 200 ends thus:

R. S. O. O. Where R. S. are the figures resulting from multiplying C. D by 2.

Setting out the subtruction: . . R S O O

. . A B C D

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We see that D = 3 and C = 2

 $\therefore S = 2D = 6$ 

R = 2C = 4) which tells us that B = 8, and A = 0: the last four figures of the quotient are:

# A report by Jordan on the status of activities leading to the economic summit Preparations get under way for Amman summit

Background information

OK REVIEW

1. THE FIRST formal mention of the Amman Economic Summit came in operative paragraph 16 of the Casablanca Declaration, which read as follows:

"The participants expressed their intention to meet again in Amman, Jor-dan, in the first half of 1995 for a second Middle East/ North Africa Economic Summit, to be hosted by His Majesty King Hus-

Furthermore, the Casablanca Declaration established in operative para-graph 9, a Steering Committee comprised of government representatives, including those represented in the Steering Committee of the multilateral group of the peace process, and entrusted it with the task of following up all issues arising out of the summit in coordination with existing multilateral structures such as REDWG. The Steering Committee was asked to meet within one month following the Casablanca

2. The Steering Committee held its first formal meeting in Brussels on Nov. 30, 1994 as called for in the Casablanca Declaration. Attending the meeting were delegations from the United States, Russian Federation, the European Union, Japan, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and the Palestinian National Authority. An observer from the World Economic Forum (WEF) also attended the meeting. The meeting had four agenda items including the "Organisation of the Am-

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nurderou

man Summit. 3. Concerning the Amman summit all parties emphasised the need for a different kind of gathering in Amman: smaller, more focused on private sector participation and geared to specific sectors or themes with the objective of announcing several flagship projects during the meeting. The themes or sectors should be linked, if possible, with ongoing efforts in the multilaterals. The

Jordanian delegation described a number of workshops and seminars planned in the coming months which could be used to identify sectors and projects to be highlighted at the Amman summit. The observer from the WEF suggested that, as a result of the WEF survey on Casablanca participants, the Amman summit be held around October 1995, He also noted a positive response to the Amman summit and that 18 CEOs (chief executive officers) have agreed to participate in the WEF business interaction group. No decision on the timing of the Amman summit was taken

4. The Steering Committee held its next meeting, which was an informal one, in Washington D.C. on Jan. 9, 1995.

in Brussels.

The meeting was attended by the cosponsors, the regional parties, the European Union, Morocco and Japan. Also present was Mr. Gregory Blatt of the World Economic Froum.

The agenda included the timing of the Amman summit, sectors for emphasis, and the date and venue of the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

ing conflict with the Palesti-

nian Authority and called for

talks with Mr. Arafat to calm

the situation in Gaza.

zzedine Al Cassam.

they have in the past."

has turned increasingly to

suicide bombings, warned

that militant methods would

evolve and develop the way

Jihad, regarded by some as

being more radical than

Hamas, said: "They want to

disarm us but the mujahe-

deen (holy fighters) will nev-

to Israeli forces at any time.

the Israeli Mossad is every-

taken away, these are pre-

cious objects," said the activ-

ist, who requested anonymity

because be was on the run.

gathered at the Shatti refugee

camp in Gaza in memory of

Hamas suicide-bomber Imad

Abu Ammuna, who wound-

ed nine Israelis in one of

scuttle the peace process.

ticity of the materials,

obtained by the London Sun-

day Times from a "defecting"

Iraqi nuclear scientist who

faxed some documents to the

The report says that Iraq

paper before he "vanished."

denied it had such a program-

me and that the IAEA was

unable to come to any con-

clusions in its initial analysis

The IAEA is in charge of

destroying all nuclear equip-

ment and materials while a

the New York-based U.N.

Special Commission is re-

sponsible for chemical, biolo-

gical and ballistic weapons.

however, says that equip-

ment and essential compo-

nents of Iraq's past nuclear

weapons programme have

been destroyed, removed or

It also says that a long-term

monitoring system to help

ensure Iraq cannot reacquire

these weapons is in place and

rendered harmless.

The new IAEA report.

of the documents.

Sunday's attacks.

Around 1.500 Palestinians

where, none of the fugitives

'We know we are exposed

er relinquish their arms.

The outcome of the meeting was as follows: - The summit will be held in Amman during Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 1995.

- The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Amman around mid-March, 1995.

- On the substantive issues, it was decided to follow the Thematic Approach which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan introduced earlier on in Casablanca. Furthermore, there will be subthemes which will be the subjects for workshops and

- It was decided to ntilise the opportunity of the forthcoming annual Davos meeting and have a brain storming session with the basiness interaction group on the Amman summit

seminars.

The next meeting where the Amman summit was discussed was the meeting which was held in Bonn on Jan. 17 for the monitoring committee of REDWG and on Jan, 1g-19 for the REDWG plenary.

At those meetings, there was a feeling that the REDWG technical work should constitute an important input to the Amman

It was hoped that the announcement on the creation of the Middle East Regional Development Bank will be made at the

6. The next meeting relevant to the Amman summit was the Davos annual meeting held on Jan. 26-29, 1995. The main activity was a working breakfast on Jan. 27 of the business interaction group. The Jordanian delegation presented the host country thinking on

the Amman summit which integrates the ideas that the Amman summit will solidify the peace process on the ground, interact with the multilateral economic talks, and produce concrete results. The majority of views suggested that, essentially, the desired outcome may be achieved by

Use the lessons of Casablanca. — Be business oriented.

having the Amman sum-

- Be held in an environment favourable to busi-

Be of manageable

7. At the end of their meet-

ing on Feb. 7-8 in Taba, Egypt, the ministers of trade from Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority as well as the U.S. secretry of commerce welcomed the convening of the Amman summit and called on the international public and private community to fully support this important initiative which will promote trade and investments in the region. This text was present in the final Taba Declaration of Feb. g, 1995.

8. Following informal con-sultations which took place during the first meeting of the task force on the regional financing mechan-ism held in Washington D.C., it was decided to hold the next meeting of the Steering Committee on April 10, 1995 in Amman.

Status of activities leading to the summit Background

I. The government of Jordan, in offering to host the summit, is aware of its his-

toric responsibilities towards its people and other peoples of the region. In particular, it is firmly determined that its own children, and all children of this region, shall be able to live a normal life and pursue their dreams and hopes

for peace and prosperity.

2. It is with this background, that the government and people of Jordan will join other countries in making the Amman summit an opportunity for consolidating peace in the region. The Casablanca meeting was a strong political statement to usher regional cooperation among all countries in the Middle East region. We bope at the Amman summit, to move forward to the next level of details as it is our firm belief that the advances made in the peace process should go along with a serious consideration of the socio-economic disparities in the Middle East region and require that we address the concept of security in the region in all its aspects: social, economic, and political. In this context, it is hoped that these issues will be addressed within the framework

of a global approach en-

compassing socio-economic

dimensions, and the wel-

fare of the peoples of the

mittee headed by the minis-

ter of trade and industry

was formed in Jordan. The

committee includes the pri-

vate sector through the

chambers of commerce and

Amending invesment and income tax laws. Proceeding at a faster 1. Shortly after the January pace with programmes for meeting of the Steering Committee beld in privatisation. Washington D.C., a Furthermore, a threenational preparatory com-

day meeting in Amman was held with the World Economic Forum last month where all aspects of the summit were examined including venue and the WEF will, I believe, report

2. To date, the preparatory

committee established a

coordination mechanism

with leading figures from

the private sector including

the major investment hold-

ing companies. Meetings

with the different group-

ings in the Jordanian pri-

vate sector were held in

which the private sector

participated actively. The

preparatory committee will

form sectoral sub-

committees with a view to

preparing projects includ-ing feasibility studies and

financing packages as well

as an overview of the busi-

ness environment and

proposals to achieve Jor-

dan's goals of market re-

form, privatisation, and

other related issues. The

Jordan government took

several measures to create

the proper environment for

the summit including: Working to establish a

trilateral partnership be-

tween government, the

business community, and

liberalisation and market

friendly economic reform

programmes (dismantling

barriers to ensure free flow

of ttade and investments).

Continuation of the

financial institutions.

industry. Furthermore, a briefly on their recomhigher level national Steermendations. We are in ing Committee for the sumagreement with the WEF mit was formed headed by by the prime minister.

- The Amman summit sbould be businessoriented and not only to big companies but to smaller companies as well.

The Amman summit should concentrate on a select group of industries, allow for product matchmaking, and establish a data base for future business activities. Furthermore, work should be done with the chambers of commerce and industry and established companies in the region. This should be done first on the national level and then regionally.

 The emphasis should be on the private sector, few well-defined themes. and the need for concrete results. Workshops or round table meetings will be organised prior to the summit (April-September) with a view to presenting to the summit ready packages for implementation. We hope to be able to identify together, few projects that will be annuinced at the summit where implementation bas already started or will start in the immediate future. Furthermore, it is hoped that the creation of the Middle East regional financing mechanism will be announced at the sum-

Workshops prior 10 and during the conference will be held on the key sectors to be agreed upon. The themes of the summit may include: Infrastructure, trade and finance, investments, and the environment. Sectoral workshops may include: finance, tourism, trade, Jordan Rift

Valley, and environmental

issues. Already workshops were held in Jordan on tourism, electricity and transport. A workshop on the Jordan Rift Valley will be held by the end of this month and other forthcoming workshops are expected on tourism, water, finance and investments, and the

private sector.

— Several non-Jordanian partners are involved in the Jordanian preparatory process. The World Economic Forum of Davos is an active partner helping with all aspects of the summit, as well as marketing the semmit to the international business community. The Canadian Internationa Development Agency (CIDA) has been involved since late last year with the identification of national projects as well as w... preparing the private sector in Jordan to ensure their effective participation in the summit including the preparatory workshops that are scheduled to be

held prior to the summit The U.S. Department of Commerce and the State Department are actively involved in the many aspects of the preparatory process.

The European Union is involved in preparing regional studies on the various themes of the conference as well as in the work

Japan is, of course. actively contributing to the work on lourism.

UNIDO offered to sponsor a workshop on finance and investments.

Finally, the work already done by REDWG since the Madrid conference, in particular the Copenhagen plan of action, shall constitute an important input in terms of regional projects.

### PNA orders registration of guns

oners.

(Continued from page 1)

Medein said weapons not surrendered within one month would be taken by force. 'We will never accept more militants and more arms, Mr. Abu Medein said.

A spokesman for Hamas said its fighters would not surrender arms as long as Gaza, guarding the Jewish settlements where about 5.000 Israelis continue to

"While the Israelis are still here and killing the people, it is nonsense to ask the people to give up their weapons with which they protect them-selves," said Mahmoud Zahar, a senior political figure in Hamas. "We will

never give up our weapons." But Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath vowed the campaign would be car-

ried out to the end. "Until Hamas, Jihad and everybody commit themselves to respect the agreement (with Israel), we have to take the measures necessary to protect the national interest," he said. "We have

to get our bouse in order." Mr. Zahar said: "We have to protect ourselves from the Israelis. If you take their weapons, it would mean you are giving a chance for Israel to arrest them. Regardless of the result, they will never

give their weapons. "It will not be easy to take weapons by force. The weapons are not in stores, they are in the hands of fighters and they will not give

their weapons."
Dr. Zahar added, however, tbat Hamas was not seek-

France drops bid to lift sanctions

(Continued from page 1) from the Gulf war. France has also proposed several amendments to the draft, asking for \$1.5 billion

over 90 days and making allowances for costs Traq needs to restart pumping oil. The \$1.5 billion figure is also unacceptable to the sponsors.

### IAEA probe

The International Atomic Energy Agency is investigating allegations that Iraq has secretly been working on technology required to make nuclear weapons, according to a report circulated on

Tuesday. Diplomats familiar with the report's contents said the Vienna-based agency was examining documents that suggest Iraq was conducting theoretical computer-based Programmes on nuclear

veapons designs. But the agency at this point Rabin rejects call to send troops (Continued from page 1)

from 23 to eight and in Jerusalem from four to two," he

"I'm ready to meet with Arafat if it is to end the Mr. Rabin said 105 Israelis have been killed since Jan. 1, violence and end the police 1994, of whom 67 have died attitude and release the prisin five suicide attacks.

He said the continued con-A Hamas member close to tacts between Israelis and the group's military wing. Palestinians in the territories created ideal conditions for suicide bombings. "The mad mullahs enflame the young and incite them to sacrifice their lives in the name of blind hatted. An activist from Islamic

Israeli troops are deployed in the Strip to protect Jewish settlements which remained

despite autonomy. The leader of the rightwing opposition Likud party, Benjamin Netanyahu. accused the government of

giving in to terrorism." The Gaza Strip had become a "terrorists' heaven, Mr. Netanyahu charged. will allow their guns to be warning against the extension of Palestinian autonomy to the West Bank.

The left-wing Meretz party, which is part of the ruling coalition, called for the dismantlement of Kfar Darom. Netzarim and Morag settlemetns in the Gaza Strip as well as the Hebron settlement on the West Bank to try

In Cairo, Egyptian Presi-dent Hosni Mubarak on to stamp out attacks. "It is impossible to defend Wednesday called for Israel these settlements. Their upand the PLO to form a united keep does not only put the front against attacks by lives of settlers in danger but Palestinian militants trying to also those of the soldiers tasked with defending them," the party's parliamentary His comments came a day

group said. after he met with Mr. Arafat Haaretz newspaper said for talks on the peace process Israel aims to cut the number in the light of the double of entry points for Palestisuicide-bombing. nians under a separation plan designed in curb attacks by enemies of the peace process. is unable to verify the authen-Police Minister Moshe

Shahal submitted the plan to Mr. Rabin on Tuesday and it was to be discussed in

Haaretz said the plan limits Palestinian entry to the Jewish state to I1 checkpoints, compared to several dozen at present. Israelis would be abel to use the same crossings as well as seven others exclu-

sively set up for them.

The plan — devised by police, the army and Shin Beth intelligence service outlines a separation roughly along the green line between Israel and the West Bank.

But some sections would also incorporate occupied areas and 'annexed' East Sophisticated equipment

would be used at the crossings to detect explosives and arms, while helicopters fly along the separation line to prevent infiltrations.

Entry into Israel will only be allowed to people and vehicels registered by us. Mr. Shahal told Israeli televi-

"The number of people crossing into our territory will be reduced and they will only be allowed to enter through crossing points under our control," the minister said.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$280 million, on top of running costs of \$90 million a year.

The experts who drew up the plan believe Palestinian hardliners will still be able to pull off attacks inside Israel because a hermetically-sealed line would be impossible, Haaretz reported.

The plan would not "strangle" the Palestinians by confining them to their territories and therefore was not in contradiction with the PLO-Israel autonomy accords, they argue.

EURODOLLAR IN JORDAN

appointment of a brand new partner in the fast growing tourist and business market of Jordan.

EuroDollar International is pleased to announce the

Formerly Eagle Rent A Car. and established in 1993, this

organisation is one of the fastest growing Car Rental

groups in this country. They are already dealing with many

Tour Operators and hold numerous contracts in the rapidly

developing domestic and international markets. Based in

Amman City they will be introducing a unique Courtesy

Bus service from Amman International Airport to leading

city hotels and will also be opening branches in Aqaba and

A strong Sales & Marketing programme has been agreed

with EuroDollar' International and Mr. Marouf Abu

Samra, the general manager of EuroDollar (Jordan), has

been joined in this exciting project by Mr. Rand Dia. Mr.

Rand Dia has extensive sales and marketing experience in

domestic and international car rental dating back to 1979.

tional, said" ... we are delighted that two such progressive

companies have joined forces to become a major car rental

player in this exciting and fast expanding market place. We

are looking forward to offering both inbound customers to

Jordan and the domestic car rental market a quality

service, supported by excellent vehicles and very competi-

Mr. Freddie Aldous, chairman of EuroDollar Interna-

the Jordan valley within the next year.

Islamist militants on trial in a Cairo court (AFP photo)

# Founder of radical group preaches peace for Egypt

By Mae Ghalwash The Associated Press

SOHAG, Egypt — His appearance puts him in the legions of Egypt's Muslim militants: scraggly beard, long, traditional robe. His aides check identity cards before meetings with strangers. Female guests must

But Sheikb Salah Ahmed, one of the founders of Egypt's most radical Muslim group. Al Gamaa Al Islamiyya, preaches a message distinct from militant leaders. He wants an end to the three-year war between the government and the militants who want to throw out Egypt's secu-

An Islamic state is best brought about peacefully, Ahmed says. He describes his programme as one of "dialogue and shunning violence. We call for

lar system.

Intellectuals and former government officials have echoed his call for an end to the violence. It may offer Egypt a way out of a bitter conflict that has killed more than 670 people, tarnished its reputation and sapped crucial tourist dol-

"Most of the provinces were not violent, but the police forced them to be Mr. Ahmed, a portly man of 41, said in an interview. "If the government stopped its violence, it would find a good reac-

So far, the government has ignored appeals for dia-logue with the militants on grounds it would give them undue credibility. In the past three months, security forces have stepped up their crackdown, imposing curfews, making mass arrests and often shooting militants dead in their hide-

Already more than 160 people have died this year, almost matching the 183 killed in 1994. Most of the bloodshed has occurred in El Minya, a picturesque region of sugar cane and palm trees where militants enjoy support.

For its part, Al Gamaa Al Islamiyya (the Islamic Group) insists it will keep up its drive to overthrow the government and install strict religious rule. Its militants have killed eight foreigners in a campaign to cripple tourism, and the group is suspected in bombings of cafes, banks

and tourist buses in Cairo. But in the southern province of Sohag, where Mr. Ahmed is the emir, or leader, of the Islamic Group, militant violence has been at a minimum. Five people have been killed this year - one policeman and four militants. In 1994, two officers and 12 militants were killed. In the preceding two years, no one died.

Islamic activists in Sohag attribute their restraint to Mr. Ahmed, who is quick to smile and enjoys jokes with an Islamic tint. He says his message has been peaceful ever since he

helped found the Islamic

Group in 1974, and he

swore he and his followers would stay non-violent. Islam "says there should be no bloodletting," said Hosni Mahmoud, who is Mr. Ahmed's deputy. "This violence will only be-

nefit those who are the

enemies of Islam."
Only a few police cars are parked near major buildings in Sohag, about 240 kilometres south of Cairo. Farther north in Minya, meanwhile, armoured vehicles protect police stations, soldiers man pillboxes and barri-

cades block roads. Rather than toting rifles, Mr. Ahmed's followers sell honey and sesame paste at the Ansar Al Sunna Mosque, where Mr. Ahmed preaches. They hold government jobs — Mr. Ahmed himself is an electrical engineer at the government power plant in

Sohag. Most militants deem working for the government sinful.

There is anger among Sohaf residents for what they consider the government's reliance on violence. People complain that police in pattol cars drag in youths at random. detaining them for a few hours to months at a time.

Um Sayed, 56, is the

Police have imprisoned two of her sons, her two sonsin-law, grandson and two nephcws on suspicion of being militants.

Wrapped in long black veils. Um Sayed rocks back and forth in a wooden sear in front of Mr. Ahmed swears her sons will not take up arms to avenge themselves against the gov-

ernment. But as she talks about her children and her restless nights punctuated with nightmures, she breaks into

tears. "I hope there will come a day when (officials)... see their of Beren but up intotiny places in from of ' she said. "I want

them to feel what I am Others support Mr. Ahmed's peaceful mes-

Montasser Zayat, a prominent lawyer who defended militants and often served as the Islamic Group's spokesman, has urged Islamic militants to

lay down their arms, He was jailed for seven months on charges of having ties with the militants. He wants an end to the violence to save the move-

meat, "I advise the Islamic movement in this stage and in the next to change their tactics... so as not to lose the sympathy of the people

and because the govern-ment is stronger," he said.

# **OECD: Women earn** 40% less than men

PARIS (R) — Women earn, on average 40 per cent less than men of the same age and with the same education level, a repor: by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) rel ased Tuesday

Part of the reason for the disparity is that women are more likely to work parttime, said the survey produced yearly by the 25member nation think-tank.

The gap is biggest in Switzerland, the Netherlands and Britain where on average women's pay is less than half that of men. In Italy and Finland the gap is smallest with women on average earning 76 per cent of men's

The gap is largest for least OECD countries spend on

average 6.1 per cent of their gross domestic product on

Germany, Japan and the Netherlands invest the least. Male university graduates

in all coutnries earn on average between 45 and 75 per cent more than men with a senior school education. But in Italy, the Netherlands and New Zealand, the advantage of a university education is much less.

The overall pattern is much the same for women. However, they gain least financial advantage from a degree in Austria. Denmark and Italy and most in Portugal and Britain, In Britain, a female graduate earns twice as much as a woman with only a senior school education, the report

Most countries in the survey agreed that mathematics and the native language should form the core of the school curriculum. Foreign languages are also seen as

The report showed that education "is key to a job but no longer a passport to a Thomas Alexander. OECD education director. told a news conference.

But little education is more likely to result in onemployment. In France, for example, unemployment is 57 per cent among youngsters with a lower school education while in the United States the rate is 37 per cent.

Among people with a university degree, the jobless rate is 12 per cent in France and eight per cent in the United States.

The report did not delve into which countries provided the best education but it did look at reading achievement and found that among nineyear-olds. Finns displayed the best reading skills, followed by Americans and

# ADB to promote 'growth triangles' in Asia

MANILA (AFP) — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is to encourage greater economic cooperation among Asian countries. helping them to form "growth triangles," the bank said in its annual report published here Wednesday

The Manila-based ADB said that this would involve educating Asian nations on the potential of such regional groupings, identifying suitable projects and financing some key projects to ensure

The ADB said that rapid growth in the region. together with growing intra-regional trade and investment as well as economic liberalisation, had made cooperation more likely.

It said these groupings were part of a "third wave" bf fegional cooperation for lowing a first wave, which saw the creation of the European Community in 1958. second wave that led to pean Union and the North American Free Trade Association in the 1980s and early

The ADB cited the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which is soon to become a free trade area, the South Asian Association for Regional Coop-eration (SAARC) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum as examples of groupings in the

The ADB said other emerging groupings were the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Southern China Growth Triangle, the Tumen River Area Development Programme and the East ASEAN Growth Area (EAGA).

Such growth triangles need not be set up by governments but could emerge as "a market and private sector-driven arrangement." the ADB said. An example was the so-called Southern China triangle encompassing Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Chinese provinces of Fujian

The Greater Mekong Subregion, which groups Burma,

Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Yunnan province of China, gets ADB financing for a comprehensive study of

the area's prospects. The bank has supported Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand growth triangle and is considering a similar study for the EAGA, which includes Brunei and nearly areas of the Philippines. Malaysia and Indonesia

The ADB said that "support for regional economic activities depends on the development priorities," of the developing member countries but it also drew up guidelines for such support.

Among these guidelines were the the requirement that these groupings be congruent with the global trade and investment liberalisation under the General Agree-ment-on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and help strengthen these nations' ability to compete internationally.

They should "financially and aidministratively feasible and sustain-

### Survey: Americans feel okay about money today, downbeat about future

NEW YORK (AP) — Many Americans are worrying less about their pocketbooks, yet believe the country is in a long-term slide and don't trust government a whit, a survey found.

Money magazine's 10th such poll found what it called a "puzzling sense of gloom" amid signs that the economy is growing at a healthy clip.

In one telling sign about people's view of the future or perhaps just about a belief in their own luck — II per cent of the 1.416 people surveyed said the best way to get

rich is to play the lortery.

The national poll is in the magazine's May issue distri-buted Wednesday.

It was conducted by Williard and Shullman, a Greenwich. Connecticut, research firm, and was based on mailed responses from household decisionmakers. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 per cent.

All in all. Americans were fretting less about money than last year.

An unexpected \$1,000 bill to pay would cause trouble for only 39 per cent, down from 48 per cent last year. Fifty-five per cent said they worry often about money. compared with 61 per cent

# Sixty-four per cent said

they'd have trouble finding a job if they lost theirs, compared with 74 per cent last

Yet, half of those surveyed felt that the economy wouldn't get better in 1995, and 22 per cent predicted a decline. Fifty-five per cent said the country is in a "long-term decline," while 45 per cent disagreed.

Also, 45 per cent felt they would have just enough or not enough money to live on in their retirement years.

Asked for their views on the politicians and bureaucrats in the capital. 89 per cent said they don't trust them to make the right decisions, and only 19 per cent said they're getting their money's worth from the federal government. Sixty-one per cent said the

top priority should be balancg the budget through a constitutional amendment or spending cuts. That com-pared with 31 per cent last

Of course, there are always those who find money too taxing to ponder at all. Asked which they thought about more often, 44 per cent said money and 15 per cent said sex. Sixteen per cent said their thoughts never strayed

# Prices soar in Iraq after sanctions end delayed

BAGHDAD (R) — Prices for baby food, flour and other essentials soared in Baghdad Wednesday on word the U.N. was still not satisfied with Iraqi progress in disarming and was not likely to lift sanctions soon.

the price of a kilogramme of powdered food for infants jumped to 850 dinars from 350 and a kilogramme of flour rose to 575 from 350.

A kilogramme of rice sold for 600 dinars, a kilogramme of sugar cost 800 and a litre (quart) of cooking oil sold for 500 dinars in a country where civil servants earn on average 3,500 dinars (about \$3) a month.

The dinar, whose value has plummeted since Iraq was banned from exporting oil after it invaded Kuwait in 1990, was trading at 1,200 dinars on the black market.

The government supplies staples, including baby milk, at giveaway prices but these hardly meet half of basic needs and the rest must be fetched from the inflated spot

The latest price rises in Irag's devastated economy came after advance copies circulated at the United Nations of the latest review by the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) of Iraq's progress towards disarmament. It said all signs pointed to Iraq conducting an undisclosed germ warfare programme.

The commission said it was concerned about what Iraq had done with up to 17 tonnes of biological materials that could be used for such a

The commission, headed by Rolf Ekeus, must give Iraq a clean bill of health concerning disarmament be-fore the U.N. Security Council would consider lifting the

Iraci officials and the staterun press said the latest UN-SCOM report was positive on other weapons areas, particularly the crucial weapons monitoring systems, and pledged to continue cooperation with Mr. Ekeus to fill in the gaps.

The Iraqi government, eager to buy as much grain as possible to maintain food rations in the face of sanctions, has almost trebled prices on offer to Iraqi farmers for. wheat and barley.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 13, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 2) to April 19) Contact someone who has the ability to assist you in your career and state to this individual what it is you

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have fine ideas of a practical nature which can be made to work with the assistance of out-of-town

GEMINI: [May 21 to June 21] This is a good day to talk over with persons just now to become more prosperous today and in the

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think over what demanding pariners expect from you today and satisfy only to the right extent which does not cause you problems. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get right down to the core of any tasks

shead of you today and polish them off nicely, but cooperate more

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get into the activities which will give you an end from worry today and have a delightful time with your loved ones. Show much affection for your mate. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a fine day today to

stay at home and get into fine condition. Then you should invite guest into your home tonight and treat them very nicely. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is an ideal day today to join with as many friends as possible and plan for greater success

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get all those fine ideas down to a workable level today and be more practical to get the right results so that you can progress in your career.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get your personal aims well organised in the morning so that you can gain them quickly. Tonight can bring lots of fun and excitement to you. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try to get your visionary ideas done to a practical and workable level today. Buy some charming gift for your mate which will be appreciated.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get in touch with that older person you know today if you want to attain some personal longing with ease.

Birthstone of April: Diamond - Amethyst

### FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 14, 1995

-By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Think over how you can make today brighter by more progressive methods and do not branch off in different directions. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan how to best combine past experiences with current undertakings today so that you get the

greatest success for later tonight. CEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Follow your intuition and you know

how best to realise your fondest ambitions and desires. Be more willing to meet the right people today. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with bigwigs

today and state your aims and desires for your success and gain their LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Early plan tonight's tasks as well as today's labours and then all will flow along smoothly. Show

appreciation for fellow associates ideas. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day for seeing persons you like at the right places today and gain benefits thereby. Don't lose your temper with anyone.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Home is your best bet today where you can talk over tonight's events with your loved ones. Invite

important individuals into your home. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Early today attend meetings where the highest percepts are taught, prescribe and have fellowship with congenial friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take time today to study your monetary status and see the best way to improve it. Talk over your ambitions with an expen.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Early today plan how to improve your health, wealth and romantic interests. Know what influential persons it is best to meet with.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a fine day for mediating and then gaining the benefits which are rightfully yours, and plan for greater things tonight.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be with those who can assist you in social circles today and gain their cooperation quickly. Join a club which is worthwhile.

Birthstone of April: Diamond - Amethyst

# AMF suspends membership of Iraq, Sudan and Somalia

Arab Monetary Fund to reach an agreement.

(AMF), the main financial In its annual report. organisation in the region, confirmed Wednesday it had suspended the membership of Iraq, Sudan and Somalia for not paying outstanding

The Abu Dhabi-based fund said its governing board, which comprises finance ministers and central bank governors from the 22member Arab League, discussed the countries' defaults

at a meeting in Muscat. "Regarding the default issue, the board agreed that suspension of their membership will continue until the problem is resolved," it said

ABU DHABI (AFP) - The contacts with those members In its annual report, the

AMF put arrears by member states at around \$640 million nearly half the fund's paid-up capital. Iraq, a founding member

of the fund, owned nearly \$267.5 million while arrears by Sudan stood at \$250.7 million and by Somalia at \$121.8 million. Three other former defaulters, Mauritania, Syria and Yemen have settled their dues.

AMF sources ruled out an early solution to desproblem as Iraq's coffers have been hit by crippling sanctions im-posed by the United Nations just after its 1990 invasion of in a statement from its Abu neighbouring Kuwait, Years Dhabi headquarters. "The of civil war have also taken board also agreed to pursue their toll on Sudan and Soma-

The AMF, with a capital of around \$1.3 billion, was created in 1976 with the primary aim of tackling balance of payment deficits in member states through providing soft

It has started to focus on technical assistance and reforms in the past few years after the shortfalls persisted

The AMF's lending activity was badly hurt by the arrears problem and the alleged embezzlement of around \$80 million by its former chair-man, Jawail Hashem, a former Iraqi planning minister.

Such problems have also forced the fund to build up an emergency reserve, which stood at around \$210 million at the end of 1993.

# UAE opposes projects with Israel, setting up M.E. bank

told a financial conference that setting up joint projects with Israel would be more dangerous for Arabs than Israel's deployment of nuc-

lear weapons. "Since the establishment of Israel, it has been looking at intergrating its economy with the countries of the region

MUSCAT (R) — The United through joint projects," said UAE Finance and Industry Minister Ahmad Bin Humaid Al Tayer- "Israel's achievement of this goal would be more dangerous than its own-

ing weapons of mass destruc-tion and nuclear warheads." Mr. Tayer was addressing the annual meeting of Arab finance and economy ministers and central bank governors who head the Arab-League's main financial and economic funds. He urged Arab states to

look for the basis of a clear Arab position from these (Israeli goals) and the aims behind them."

Mr. Tayer reiterated his country's strong objections to setting up \$5 billion Middle

focus of an Middle East economic summit planned for Amman in October. "The Arab World does not .

need a bank that would include Israel ... the aim of such a bank would not be the development of the Arab countries because this is the last thing Israel would work East development bank, the

for," he said. Oman's deputy prime

minister for financial and economic affairs, Qais Bion Abdul Monim Al Zawawi, Tuesday opened the meeting with a warning that Arab states awuld consider ways to boost inter-Arab development to confront growing international economic blocs and the idea of setting up the Middle East bank,

The Arab League opposes

THE BETTER HALF.

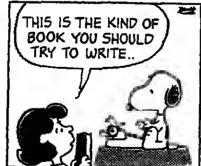
seen by the United States and Israel as one of the dividends of the Middle East peace process. The league has urged member states to form their own regional economic bloc first.

> The European Union is also sceptical about the bank

> > By Glasbergen

## **Peanuts**

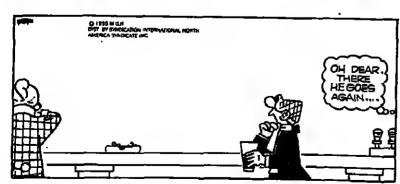








# **Andy Capp**





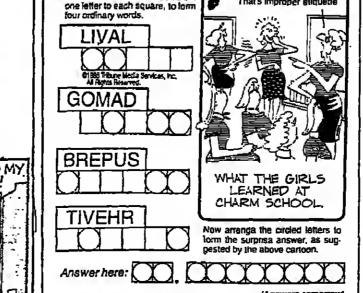
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# Mutt'n'Jeff







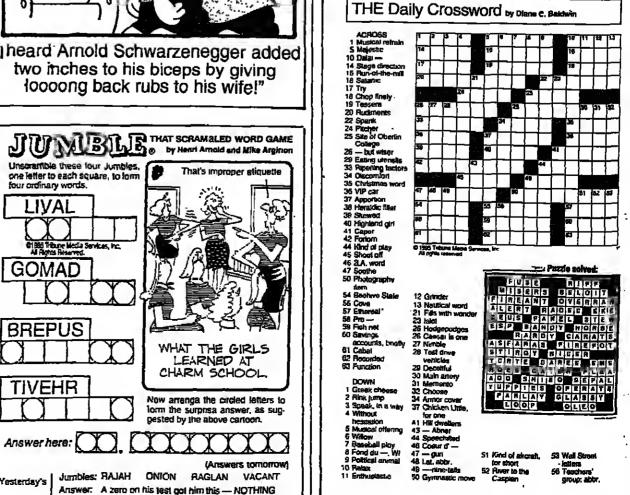


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☆★ ACCORDING TO an agricultural engineer, Jordan has achieved an international record in tomato production en de la coma la graga espaga. and is number one in the region. Speaking during an exhibition of farm products. the engineer pointed out that a the control who has the s European and U.S. markets prefer Jordanian tomatoes in the state of a particular o and that Italy alone imports and the second of the second o 15,000 tonnes of Jordanian tomatoes every year. Another engineer said tomato was a strategic Jordanian product and there was a need to set up plants to produce Think one of tomato paste as high demand for the product is pushing up And the cole yes its price on the international level. Other visitors of the exhibition described the tomato as "Jorden's red gold" (Al Ra'i). au ng

\*\* FINANCE MINISTER Basel Jardaneh decided to set up a customs office in the Zarqe area to supervise entry of fresh and refrigerated produce to the free zone (Al Dustour).

\*\* THE MINISTRY of Tourism, in cooperation with the private sector, will manage the Amman Hotel Training College and transform it to a regional scademy for tourism training. Arrangements for this new approach are expected to be completed before the end of June to enable the academy start its octivities at the beginning of the new scholastic year in autumn (Al Ra'i).

**☆☆ AN ANNOUNCE-**MENT by the Municipality of Greater Amman (MoGA) inviting bids to acquire stores at the new central vegetables matket has angered wholesalers of agricultural products at the present market. The wholesalers and middlemen claim that MoGA should give them stores at the new market free of charge in replacenow at the present market. MoGA is demanding a fixed annual rent of JD 2,500 for all stores at the new market. which is situated in Juweideh. behind the grain silos, in addition to key money to be determined by bids (Al Dus-

**☆☆** NER PROFIT at the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company plunged drastically from JD 4.11 million in 1993 to JD 117,000 in 1994. The gross profit from sales dropped 97.2 per cent from JD 6.7 million in 1993 to JD 3.63 last year. The board of directors did not recommend distributing any di-vidends. The annual report indicated that the company has reached the limit of expansion and has turned to controlling spending (Al

\* THE JORDAN Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation is inviting all Jordanian exporters to contact it if they wish to display samples of their products at the Moscow International Trade Fair to be held next month (Al Ra'i).

\*\* THE JORDAN Islamic Bank for Figance and Investment boosted net profits by 32.2 per cent last year to JD 3.1 million compared to JD 2.34 in 1993. The board of directors is recommending to the general assembly the distribution of JD 1.75 million in dividends at 12 per cent. The bank's annual report shows that total deposits amounted to JD 462 million at the end of last year compared to JD 421 million in the previous of the total deposits, foreign currency deposits amounted to the equivalent of JD 107.5

million in both years. The balance of financing and investment stood at JD 356 million at the end of 1994, 15.9 per cent higher than the JD 307 million posted in 1993. The annual report highlighted the bank's \$65 million financing to the Ministry of Supply in 1994 to purchase basic foodstuffs such as sugar, rice, corn, wheat and barley. Total assets of the bank want up from JD 528.2 million in 1993 to JD 570 million at the end of 1994 (al Aswaq).

# Central bank governor invites big, 'good' foreign banks to Jordan

By P. V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi has dismissed as unfounded fears in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) that a sought-for capital raise of commercial banks would lead to a severe liquidity in the bourse.

Dr. Nabulsi, who issued the directive in January to all local banks to increase their capital of JD 20 million from the present minimum of JD 5 million, also promised that the CBJ would adopt a "flexible" approach that would preempt problems in the

Dismissing as exaggerated some suggestions that the capital would require more than JD 300 million in funds from the market, Dr. Nabulsi said he expected the figure not to exceed JD 150 million spread over two years.

Under present regulations, local banks should have a minimum capital of JD 5 million. However, most banks have a capital of around JD 10 million, having boosted it themselves as warranted by market needs.

The CBJ was prompted to order the capital increase since it expected Jordanian banks to play a "more solid part" in view of an expected increase in local banking needs and the "fact that the entire Middle East is now undergoing a change in the economic undercurrents," he

"We do feel that, in general, that except one of two banks that are reasonably well-capitalised, the rest are under-capitalised." Dr. Nabulsi said in an interview.

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Sterling Pound

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"For the banks to be more which might find it difficult to competitive and more capable of meeting the additional banking requirements an increase in their capitals is

definitely needed," he said. However, that does not mean that Jordanian banks are "right now low in the application of the international capital-to-credit requirement," he said.

"On the contrary, in this respect, when we consider the risk-assets-to-capital ratio, they are doing well." he said. "But when taken in the larger context of good, efficient banking, we feel that they are under-capitalised."

Rejecting AFM fears of a liquidity fear in the event of a rush by banks for capital from funds available in the stock exchange. Dr. Nabulsi don't think that the

stock market has really per-

ceived or grasped the real impact of this in the future capital market." He noted that the banks had the option of capitalisation of own reserve and mergers, and said the CBJ would

also welcome foreign parti-cipation in the capital of local There is a lot that the present banks can offer on its own in restructuring, there is s lot that can come from their reserves — capitalisation of reserves," he pointed out. To this extent they will not be going to the market for all their capitalisation needs, 8 good part of the capital requirement could come from

There are definitely some cases which are being considered for merger," he said in a reference to small banks

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Jordan Times

Cairo Amman Bank

meet the requirement. "A merger will supplant the need for capital from the market. At the present moment, I have in mind at least four banks which should merge into two banks." He did not

identify the banks. "We are also open to any opportunity of any big fore-ign banks — good foreign banks — coming into the Jordanian scene and join forces with some of the smaller banks," said Dr. Nabulsi. "We have no objections to some of these small local banks going into merger with

the participation of foreign These options, he said,

drawn from the market to meet the banking system's capital needs will not be more than JD 150 million spread over two years. -

"That fits in well with the present current situation of company investments in terms of primary issues," he said, acknowledging moves from dozens of non-banking firms to raise their own capit-

Dr. Nabulsi pledged that we will not be insensitive to the market situation, we will adjust the whole thing.

"We will be flexible," he said. "We will not push all the banks into the market at

# SAMA: Saudi banks capital ratio 20%

MANAMA (R) — The capital ratio of Saudi banks is more than double the minimum requirement set by the Basle committee of the Bank for International Settlements, Sandi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) Governor Hamad Al Sayari

"Our banks ratio of capital to risk weighted assets is around 20 per cent, or more than double the minimum eight per cent ratio required the Basie committee," Sheikh Sayari told a two-day economic conference which opened in Bahrain Tuesday.

Sheikh Sayari stressed the

need for Saudi banks to con-

tinue to attract domestic, regional and international funds. Though Saudi banks were encouraging customer parti-cipation in domestic capital markets by establishing mutual funds "more were

needed to reflect the convic-

be based primarily upon domestic savings."

Sheikh Sayari said each country in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) must develop its domestic capital markets, a collective priority was to "to create a fully integrated regional

capital market." The GCC joins Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

He also recognised the role of international capital.

"While encouraging domestic savings and investment we recognise that foreign capital has a role to play. It is important that capital inflows are of a term, and demonstrate a commitment. appropriate to development needs," Sheikh Sayari said. He said direct investment

through joint ventures must

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European Currency Unit 6.24 6.34 6.46

Currency	Bla	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
Surfine Pound	1.0908	1,0963
Devische Mark	0.4884	0.4908
6wise Franc	0_5926	0.5956
French Franc	0.1401	8.1408
Јаралек <b>»</b> Үел <sup>©</sup>	0.1219	0.522.0
Dutch Gallder	0.4361	0.4585
Swedish Krens · · ·	- 24000	42225
italian Lipa <sup>o</sup>	0_0398	0.0400
Belgian Franc	*****	******

Other Currencies		. Dates: 12/4/1995			
Сштевку	Bid	Offer			
Bahrele: Dinor	1.8100	1.8740			
Lehanope Lira*	0.841415	0_042435			
Sandi Riyal	0.1828	0.1839			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3500			
Qatari Riyal	0.1878	0.1895			
Egyptian Pound	D.1908	0.2080			
Ornani Riyal	1.7780	1.7950			
UAE Dirkom	8.1462·	0-1880			
Greek Drackma <sup>v</sup>	a.31550	0.42645			
Cypriot Permid	1.4605	1.5564			

### **LONDON EXCHANGE RATES**

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3806/16 1.4018/28 1.5690/00

One ounce of gold \$389.80/390.30

One sterling

1.1540/50 28.81/85 4.8930/80 1729.6/4.6 83.91/01 7.3375/75 6.2720/70 5.5107/57 \$1.5902/12

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# Real Madrid, Olympiakos reach European basketball final

ZARAGOZA, Spain (AP) - Olympiakos got 27 points from Eddie Johnson to reach its second straight championship game of the European final four with a 58-52 semifinal win Tuesday over archrival Panathinaikos, setting up Thursday's title game against Spanish side Real Madrid. Real Madrid reached the final with a 62-49 victory over

French side Limoges behind 21 points for Arvidas Sabonis. Olympiakos, losers last year by two points in the final to another Spanish club - Joventut Badalona - will be after its first European title.

Real Madrid has won seven, more than any other club, but hasn't won since 1980.

The Greeks will find a familiar foe on the Real Madrid bench - Serb coach Zelimir Obradovic. Obradovic won last year coaching Joventut and is trying to win his third title with three different teams. He won in 1992 with the

Yugoslav team Partizan. Olympiakos has 6-foot-7 (2-metre) Johnson to thank for its trip to the final, just as it was 7-4 (2.2-metre) Sabonis who was the clear difference for Real Madrid.

Johnson scored 18 of his 27 points in the second half. He kept Olympiakos in the game early in that half, scoring 15 of his club's first 20 points as Panathinaikos threatened to Yugoslav 6-10 centre (2.1-metre) Zarko Paspalj topped

Panathinaikos with 17 points, but only four in the second half as Johnson was taking charge.

It was a terrible shooting night for all four teams. Real Madrid shot 40 per cent from the field. Limoges managed 32 - and Olympiakos and Panathinaikos were just as bad at 33 and 28 per cent. in that order.

Real Madrid stifled Limoges with man-to-man defence and forced it into one of its worst shooting games in recent memory. It also held high-scoring American Michael Young to 9 points on 2 of 11 shooting from the field.

Limgoes was led by American Tim Kempton with 12. The win for Real Madrid made up for a 10-point loss to Limoges in the 1993 final four semifinals. Limoges went on to win the title.

### Morceli may skip World Championships

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PARIS (AP) - Algerian track star Noureddine Morceli, at odds again with IAAF chief Primo Nebiolo, is considering skipping this sum-mer's World Championships.

In an interview Tuesday with the French sport daily L'Equipe. Morceli said he may stay away from the Aug. 4-13 event in Goteborg,

"We'll see It's not sure." he said. "With the world championships every two years, the competition loses its importance. Every four years would be better. The World Championships have become just meets; it's not like the Olympics.

"But you have to think about your country, and mine is very important to me. If I compete, it will be for my country, not for money,"

Two years ago, Morceli threatened to boycott the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, over a lack of prize money. But he agreed to compete at the last minute after pressure from Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

"I'm not waging war against the IAAF, but for the rights of the athletes." Morathletes receive money under the table, especially those from the Santa Monica Track Club. And there were many who didn't want to compete. but who showed up at the last

The Santa Monica Club features Carl Lewis, Leroy Burrell, Mike Marsh and Johnny Grav

Asked what finally persuaded him to compete in Stuttgart, Morceli said, "we made an agreement with the boss," referring to Nebiolo.

Morceli's brother. Abderhamame, and manager Farid Boulcina said the two sides had reached a verbal agreement in Stuttgart on financial matters. Without giving details, they said the agreement had not yet been fulfilled by the IAAF.

"We might go back to see Nebiolo and (IAAF competitions director Sandro) Giovannelli to see if they keep their promise." Boulci-na said. "We tried to meet him last week in Monaco: he told us he would be back in two minutes, and we never saw him again."

Nebiolo announced last month that the lAAF will start offering prize money at its major championships after the 1996 Olympics. In Goteborg, as in Stuttgart, winners will receive Mercedes cars instead of money.

Morceli won the 1,500 metres at the last two World Championships. He holds world records in the 1,500, the mile and the 3.000.

He said his ultimate goal is to break world records in every event from 800 metres to 10,000 metres.

"It will be very difficult, but that's what challenges are



U.S., tennis player Michael Chang (left) signs autographs to Japanese fans after a mixed doubles charity match in the tournament organised to raise money to belp Kobe's earthquake victims (AFP photo)

# Agassi begins defence of No. 1 status No mercy from Chang in Japan Open

Andre Agassi got off to a ward by beating David Prinonumber one ranking with an second round of the Japan Open on Wednesday.

Agassi, who wrested the top spot from his Davis Cup teammate Pete Sampras on Monday, won 6-3, 6-2,

"It feels pretty good," he said. The important thing is to maintain it and finish the year number one. But even if I've been number one for hours, it feels very special.

To be number one is the accomplishment, but without the rivalry I think it's not quite special. To pass Pete based on me beating him was what made this so nice for

Agassi said his two victories against Sampras this season 'made being number one special. He beat Sampras in the Melbourne and Key Biscayne finals while lost to him in the Indiana Wells final this season for an 8-7 head-tohead record.

His groundstrokes. which brought him the U.S. and Australian Open, totally out-

"I had a little time to adjust and I'm still struggling a bit with my lower back, but I think 1 felt Good in the first match," said Agassi. Michael Chang, who play-

ed a charity match two days ago to raise funds for victims of January's Kobe earthquake, showed no mercy to Shuzo Matsuoka.

"I felt like Shuzo was a little bit more nervous today than before," said the American after winning 6-4, 6-2.

"One of the reasons was maybe he was playing in his home country with a crowd behind him and he wants to come up and do so well. But still, it was a tough match."

said the second seed. Australian qualifier Scott Draper, who scored his biggest victory in beating American Jonathan Stark on Mon-

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Wayne Ferreira of South

easy victory over fellow Africa coasted to a 6-1, 6-3 Anders Jarryd of Sweden 6-4. Meanwhile, Hong Kong-

based Tang Min pulled off the biggest win of her career when she beat fourth seed Mana Endo in the second tennis Wednesday.

The 24-year-old from Hunan, who left China in November 1993, came from behind to score a 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 victory over Japan's number three player.

"It was my biggest win." said Tang, playing only her second major tournament. She is ranked 189th in the world against Endo's 37th. "Before, in China, it was not so easy. Now I'm learning more technically and mental-

Endo, who reached the U.S. Open fourth round last vear, said: "She was aggressive. I had so many chances to beat ber and I couldn't get the chance. She had only a few chances to beat me and

she got it. Tang now faces sixth seed Yone Kamio of Japan or Laxmi Poruri of the United

Rain delayed the start of

matches on the outside Krajicek loses to un-

seeded player Defending champion Richard Krajicek of Holland got knocked out by unseeded Spaniard Roberto Carretero 7-5, 6-2 in the second day of the \$900,000 Conde de Godo ATP tennis tournament

The 1993 Godo winner and No. 8 seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine was eliminated by tournament veteran Javier Sanchez of Spain 6-1, 1-6,

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Cinema

'Sanchez's brother Emilio also won, beating No. 11 seed Jacco Eltingh of Holland 6-1,

6-4. The Sanchez's sister. women's No. 2 ranked to watch the play on the Royal Tennis Club's clay

Ninth-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria defeated Jordi Burillo of Spain 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2. The 27-year-old Austrian's victory came two days after he won the \$575,000 Estoril Open for his 19th clay court title. He holds the most clay court victories since the ATP Tour began in

No 5 ATP ranked and third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia advanced, defeating Richard Fromberg

of Austria 6-2, 6-7 (6-8), 6-2. Twelfth-seeded Alex Corretja of Spain was knocked out by unseeded Thierry Champion of France 6-4, 5-7,

No. 1 seed Pete Sampras of the United States, who slip-ped to No. 2 in international rankings Monday, was eliminated from doubles play. Javier Sanchez and Luis Lobo of Argentina defeated Sampras and his partner Paul Annacone of Italy.

### Garrison-Jackson upset

Zina Garrison-Jackson wanted to put on a good show in her final tournament before her hometown fans, but the fourth seed instead was upset at the Houston women's tennis championships on Tuesday.

Garrison-Jackson, who plans to retire at the end of the year, saved two match points before losing her second-round match to south African Joanette Kruger 6-2

Fifth seed and defending champion Sabine Hack play-ed the kind of match Garrison-Jackson had hoped to play, crushing fellow German Silke Frankl 6-0 6-2 in 59 minutes in a first-round

# 'Montana will retire next week'

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Joe Montana's long-rumoured retirement from professional football likely becomes official next week, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday. The newspaper said the quarterback's friends and family will be in San Francisco for the announcement.

Montana, who spent two years with the Kansas City Chiefs after leading the 49ers to four Super Bowl championships, is retiring at age 38 because of aches and pains as well as the wishes of his wife. Jennifer, according to Montana's relatives, the newspap-

By retiring next week, Montana would free up his 52.4 million salary for the Chiefs to use in the National Football League draft April 22-23. Steve Bono would be the likely starter if Montana does retire, with Matt Blundin his backup.

Chiefs spokesman Bob Moore said Tuesday the club wasn't aware Montana had made a decision. General Manager Carl Peterson was out of town for a speaking ngagement.

Montana could not be eached for comment and his agent, Tom Condon, did not immediately return a phone call from the Associated

The Times story said relatives from Monongahela. Pennsylvania aiready have flown to San Francisco to take part in the retirement

Montana has one year left on the three-year contract he signed with Kansas City after he was traded by San Francisco and replaced by Steve Young,

### Split bids for 1997 World Championships

MONACO (R) — The Croatian city of Split on Wednesday became the seventh and final candidate to replace Mexico city as host for the 1997 World Athletics Championships.

Mexico city pulled out last month because of Mexico's severe economic crisis.

The International Amateur Atheltic Federation [IAAF] said Split. Rome. Helsinki. Athens. New Delhi and Californian university town of Stanford had announced bids before the April 10 deadline. Spain will pick a candidate from three contending cities

— Madrid, Seville and Barce-

The IAAF council will make its choice at a meeting from May 21-23 in Gothenburg. Sweden, where the held in August.

# Juventus defeat Lazio 2-1 advance to Cup finals

TURIN (Agencies) — Star-forward Roberto Baggio converted a penalty kick in second-half injury time Tuesday night to give Juventus of Turin a 2-1 victory against Lazio of Rome and a berth in the Italian Cup finals.

The home victory at Delle Alpi Arena in a second-leg semifinal match added to a 1-0 win by the Turin team in Rome two weeks ago. La Juve, which is owned

and financed by the Agnelli family of auto tycoons, takes on in the Cup finals the winner of the other semifinal round between Parma and Foggia. Parma tied 1-1 the first-leg.

game on the road.

Juventus, the current league leader, rallied from a 0-1 first-half deficit after Lazio had to play the enrire second half with only 10 players following the expulsion of defender Mauro Bonomi.

The Roman team fifth in the league standings, earned an unexpected lead in the 15th minute as Juventus commanded play.

A free kick by striker

Giuseppe Signori, from about 30 metres (yards), was deflected by the wall into Juventus net.

Midfielder Giancarlo Marocchi scored the equaliser in the 47th minute, kicking in from 8 metres a pass from young teammate Alessandro Del Piero.

Lazio, although one player down, carried oul some dangerous counterattacks and Juventus substitute goalie Michelangelo Rampulla made a decisive save in the 89th minute, deflecting onto the post a short-range header by Lazio's defender Roberto Cravero.

Four minutes later, in injury time, flashy winger Angelo Di Livio was grounded in Lazio's area and Baggio converted the penalty with a precise shot to the right of goalie Luca Marche-giani — his former World Cup teammate. Juventus, upset by cros-stown rival Torino in a league

match last Sunday, badly missed its injured strikers Giancluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli, failing to convert into goals several scoring chances. The best opportunities

were squandered by Baggio who is not in his best form. Baggio returned to action three weeks ago following a serious knee injury. Lazio, who started Croat

striker Alen Boksic, Dutch midfielder Aron Winter and Argentine defender Antonio Chamot, rested English midfielder Paul Gascoigne, still tired from his first game in

one year Sunday.

Gascoigne was long sidelined with a broken leg.

Juventus' busy schedule
continues Saturday with a

league game against Reg-giana and a second-leg semifinal of the UEFA Cup against Borussia Dortmund next Tuesday.

Paris St Germain bury Marseille

Paris St Germain drove the nail into Olympique Marseille's coffin here Tuescay. beating the bankrupt former European champions 2-0 in the French Cup semi-final. Paris go through to the

May 13 final against either Strasbourg or Metz while Marseille resume an empty struggle to stay top of the second division. Marseille were declared insolvent last week with debts

result were automatically barred from promotion to the top flights. The club were forcibly re-

of 240 million francs and as a

legated last season for fixing league game only days before they won the European

Manchester City: Celtic reach Scottish Cup final

Juergen Klinsmann's head. er four minutes from the end earned Tottenham a comefrom-behind 2-1 victory over Manchester City in the English Premier League Tuesday. 48 hours after Spurs. were crushed 4-1 by Everton in the FA Cup semifinal.

Another German striker Uwe Rosler, capitalised on a blunder by Tottenham's Romanian midfielder Gica Popescu to put City ahead after 49 minutes at White Hart Lane.

Three minutes later, mid-. fielder David Howells equalised for Spurs with his first goal of the season. And Klinsmann scored his 26th of the season turning in a ftee,

kick from Darren Anderton. The result kept Tottenham in seventh place but prevented City from moving up

### European Soccer

Cup against AC Milan in May 1993. The win against Paris

would have offered hope of a money-spinning return to Europe in the Cap Winners' Cup next year. Without the added income

they face another year in the second division and may be forced to sell-off their best players to stay alive. Goals from Brazilian Ricardo in the fourth minute

and Liberian George Weah,

who flew in from Africa earlier in the day after playing for his country against Togo. in the 33rd sealed Marseille's Some 150 fans were arrested and four police injured in clashes around the

the hugh-risk match between The traditional rivals. Marseille bave won the cup 10 times to three wins for

ground before the kick-off of

five places to 11th. In another Premier League game, Queens Park Rangers moved up one place to eighth by gaining a 1-0 victory at last place lpswich. Les Ferdinand

scored after 68 minutes. Glasgow Celtic took a major step closer to winning its first title for six seasons when downed Hibernian 3-1 in a Scottish Cup semifinal re- 🤼 play. It will meet division one + Airdrie in the final May 27.

Willie Falconer and John > Collins gave Celtic a 2-0 lead half time before Keith: Wright pulled a goal back for 4 Hibs. Eight minutes from time, Phil O'Donnell's header clinched victory for Celtic.

With Glasgow rival Rangers winning the league title for the past six seasons and ? on the verge of winning the championship yet again, Celtic has been in the shadow of its neighbour.

	English	Pre	miers	hip S	Stand	ings	
	P	W	D	Ĺ	GF	GA	Pt
Blackburn	36	25	7	4	73	30	82
Man Utd	36 .	22	8	6	66 .	24	74
Newcastle	36	19	10	7	60	37	67
Nottes Fores	t 37	18	10	9	64	40	64
Liverpool	34	17	10	7	57	28	61
Leeds	36	16	11	9	49	33	59
Tottenham	35	15	10	10	57	47	55
QPR	36	15	8	13	55	52	53
Wanbledon	36	15	7	14	46	58	52
Sheff Wed	37	12	10	15	45	53	46
Aston Villa	36	10	13	13	47	48	43
Arsenal	36	11	10 .	15	42	44	43
Coventry	36	10	13	13	37	54	43
Chelsea	35	10	12	13	42	48	42
Norwich	37	10	12	15	34	47	42
Man City	36	10	11	15	45	56	41
Southampton	34	8	15	ΪĬ	49	57	39
Everton	35	9	12	14	38	48	39
Crystal Palac	e 34	9	11	14	25	35	38
West Ham	35	10	8	17	34	45	38
Leicester	37	5	9	23	40	71	24
Ipswick	36	6	5	25	31	81	23

# Post-strike money crunch haunts sport

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Baseball championship contenders are trading away high-salaried stars to stay financially solvent at the expense of title hopes. Richer clubs are signing

top talent at bargain prices. stretching the gap between strong and weak teams. And players who averted a salary cap sought by owners are now faced with taking

multi million-dollar pay cuts just to have a job. Welcome to a new era of Major League Baseball. In the aftermath of a 232-day players' strike, batting averages and strikeout figures are less important than payroll

costs and total revenues. "People are deluding themselves if they think everything is rosy because the strike ended," Montreal Expos president Claude Brochu said. "There is tremendous financial hardship for many clubs. We must get our payrolls in line."

Even though no labor deal was achieved, players ended their walkout last week and will begin practice games Thursday for a shortened season that opens on April 26. But just when fans were hopeful of seeing their Yankees, Atlanta Braves and favourites in uniform again. many clubs are dealing away top talent to rivals to offset their part of 700 million dollars in strike losses.

"This budget thing is kill-ing everybody," Minnesota slugger Kirby Puckett said. It looks we are liquidating." "It's a matter of a economics now," said Joey Cora,

signed cheaply by Seattle after being cut by the Chicago White Sox. "Teams look at salaries, not statistics. Budgets now mean more

take our players."

owners. "Teams with additional revenues from the larger markets are going to spend," Philadelphia owner Bill Giles

said. "The competitive ba-lance is going to get worse." Except the New York

Ironically, by failing to get the salary cap they wanted.
owners pushed themselves

a handful of other wealthy

teams with big-revenue fan

support to plunder weak-

payroll clubs and dominate

the coming season.
"We have the support, so it

would not meet our competi-

live needs or be fair to our

"There clearly needs to be

doing now should probably have been done years ago without asking us to fix the problem," said Oakland pitcher Dave Stewart, whose million-dollar salary this year is 2.5 million dollars below

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financial problems because of the strike has been forced to make moves they probably would rather not have made," Florida Marlins' general manager Dave Dombrowski said. "Maybe clubs will learn from it."

'Everybody in severe

fans to sit on our hands, "said Jerry McMorris, whose Col-Education has been painful for Brochu and his Expos. orado Rockies own baseball's They had baseball's best record when players walked out August 12, shutting down the 1994 title chase for good. a mechanism to keep leagues competitive," acting commis-sioner and Milwaukee owner Montreal spent five years building talent through development clubs for that suc-

# Major League Baseball

Bud Selig said.

attendance records.

"It's like going to war. taking your gun and giving it to the enemy," Pittsburgh manager Jim Leyland said. "We're not here for other teams to kick our butt and Yes you are, reply rival

into such a crisis that they had to cut back salary offers - something their competitive natures had not allowed. "What the owners are

his 1994 rate.

cess. Now those players stars and Brochu can no lite ger afford their salaries. Speedy Marquis Grissom was traded to Atlanta. Top pitcher Ken Hill was dealt to Louis. Star relief pitcher

York Yankee. We all knew it would hap pen, but never spoke about it." Wetteland said. "It was like the deadly secret."

John Wetteland is now a New

The Invitatio Brochu's choice came down to keeping a shell of a ... club or none at all.

Tom Hanks Forrest Gump Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15

PHILADELPHIA

Fifi Abdo & Kamal Shinnawi Wahid Seif.....in PENALTY Shows:12:30,3:30,5,6:30,8:30,10:30

PLAZA

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Jean-Claude Van Damm

STREET FIGHTER

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00

AMMOUN THEATRE Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammed Al Shawaqta daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday - Halfa Al Agha in the children's play

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FOR THE

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Kenyan

# finals Blazers end San Antonio's Manchester City: C. 15-game winning streak reach Scottish C. 15-game winning assists as the Cavaliers. reach Scottish Copy SAN ANTONIO (R) — Just and had nine assists as the critical minutes imported in seemed the Spurs and had nine assists as the Bucks held off Detroit 114-109 in overtime to move within one game of Boston for the East-

cr tour minutes from would never lose another train behind a largement them to be another train behind a largement them down to earth slies! Premier Line brought them down to earth slies! Premier Line brought a hombling 91-71 rout. that 48 hours afte 23 points and Otis Thorpe the FA Cup senset six of his 16 points in a same FA Cup senset 16-2 third-quarter run as same to be same for the same for the factors.

Another Cup senskey 16-2 third-quarter run as a surface of the biscored six of his 16 points in a surface of the senskey 16-2 third-quarter run as a surface of the senskey 16-2 third-quarter run as a surface of the senskey 16-2 third-quarter run as a surface of the surface of

Three computes law lowest point total in team local in team local in team local in team local in team seed in Same local instory. The Spurs also shot a Spurs with franchise-low 31 per cent (23-

The result has remaining in the third quarter Description of the first place with the first place with place wit

In Soccer ter.

"We were bad tonight."

said Robinson. "Nothing fight. We did a lot of said Robinson. Avoiring went right. We did a lot of went right. We did a lot of district the same district do anything we wanted Charles Pay Laiden't do anything we wanted Par joint to do. It was bad all the way

And the place to up. 1. And the place of the bined for over the priller.

Jason Kidd recorded his 13 Silv 2005 third triple-double in a week Hiteral with 38 points, including tup same eight 3-pointers, 10 assists. and 11 rebounds to lead the Mays to a 156-147 victory W: 10 Family over Houston.

Dallas rallied from a 12and was eight points down in the first overtime, but outin the 1:3 ... remainal 2:14 of the second over-

ime.
Jamal Mashburn scored 42 points for Dallas, while Clyde rexier recorded a triple-"Tolouble for Houston with 29 oints, 11 assists, and 11 reounds.

"We blow an eight-point ad, then they lose an 11o. I've never seen anything te it." said Mavericks head

wach Dick Motta:
"By far the most Bizarre zame I've ever been involved with," Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. In Milwaukce, Vin Baker

scored a career-high 31 points, grabbed 12 rebounds final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Glenn Robinson scored 30 points, including two free throws with 37 seconds left that tied the game 99-99 and four more in overtime.

Allan Houstoo tied a career-high with 36 points to lead the Pistons, who lost for the fifth time in seven games.

In Philadelphia, Grant Long scored a career-high 33 points, including a tiebreaking jumper from the right corner with 1:11 remaining in overtime as the Atlanta Hawks defeated the 76ers 110-106 to clinch a play-

Atlanta's Steve Smith, who had 25 points, hit a 3-pointer from the stop of the key with 6.3 seconds remaining to tie the game 96-96 and send it to

Dana Barros led the 76ers with 27 points and extended his NBA record of consecutive games with a 3-pointer to

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 25 points and Toni Kukoc added 18 as the Bulls held off the Indiana Pacers 96-89.

Chicago nearly blew a 19point second-half lead as Indiana twice got within two points in the fourth quarter. But the Bulls held on to open a two-game lead over Cleveland for the fifth playoff position in the east.

Rik Smits scored 26 points and Derrick McKey added 13 for the Pacers, who fell two games behind New York for the second-best record in the Eastern Conference.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 30 points and grabbed 18 rebounds as the Magic pulled away for a 107-90 victory over the Cleveland

Dennis Scott added 13 of his 21 points in the fourtb quarter and Anfernee Hardaway returned from a fourgame absence due to a throat ailment and added 12 points and eight assists for the Magic, who improved to 37-2 at home, including 26-0 against Eastern Conference

In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 31 points and Greg Anthony added nine of his 18 in a 13-3 fourth-quarter run as the Knicks defeated the Miami Heat 112-99 to reach 50 wins for the fourth straight

In Seattle, Dan Majerle made three 3-pointers during a 19-6 fourth-quarter run as the Phoenix Suns beat the Supersonics 96-90 to regain the Pacific Division lead. Majerle and Kevin John-

son combined for 15 points the key spurt that turned a two-poiot game into an 87-72 Johnson scored 18 points

and Charles Barkley added 17 points and 14 rebounds for Phoenix (54-22). Shawn Kemp scored 27 points and grabbed 15 re-bounds and Sam Perkins added 24 for Seattle (53-22),

which lost for just the second time in 11 games. In Utah, Blue Edwards hit a jumper with 2:51 remaining to snap a tie and Karl Malone added a 3-point play to help the Jazz beat the Los Angeles

Lakers 100-93. Malone scored 30 points. John Stockton added 18 and Jeff Hornacek netted 14 for the Jazz, who trail the leagueleading Spurs by 2½ games in the Midwest Division.

In Los Angeles, Walt Williams scored 25 points and Mitch Richmond added 24 as the Sacramento Kings routed

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
RESULTS					
Orlando Atlanta Chicago Milwankee Portland Utah New York Phoenix Dallas Sacramento	107 110 96 114 **** 91 100 112 96 156 117	Cleveland Philadelphia Indiana Detroit San Anlonio LA Lakers Miami Seattle Houston LA Clippers	90 106 89 109 (OT) 71 93 99 90 147 (2-01) 85		

# Safari starts today

NA1ROBI (R) — Holder and four-times champion Ian Duncan in a Toyota is the bot favourite for the longest and toughest rally event of the year. Kenya's Safari, which starts on Thursday.

Toyota have not been beaten on the Safari since 1991 and Duncan is expected to have the measure of his Japanese rivals, Toyota team-mate Yoshio Fujimoto and Mitsubishi's Kenjiro Shinozuka.

Subaru is sending three of its tough Imprezas, for Kenyan hero Patrick Njiru, former British champion Richard Burns and Japanese newcomer Hideaki Miyoshi.

At 2,994 km (1,859 miles), this will be the shortest Safari on record, but it has the most starters --- 115 — and a compact route means that competitors have little respite.

# NBA playoffs set for April 27

Late-season win streaks have made San Antonio and Seattle the clubs to catch with only two weeks remaining before the start of the National Basketball Association (NBA)

playoffs.

San Antonio, paced by centre David Robinson, have won 15 straight games and lead the league with a 56-18 record. The SoperSonics have won nine of their past 10 to pull ahead of Charles Barkley's Phoenix Suns. But barring a total col-

lapse, the hot Spurs will enjoy home-court advantage throoghout the championship matches that begin April 27. "I'm excited. I think the playoffs will be fun for us," said Robinson, who averages

27.7 points and 10.8 rebounds a game. "We're focused in practice. We know what we want to accomplish and we have done a lot in a short period of time. We have a group of unselfish guys concerned about win-

The Spurs, who have won a club-record 26 away games. have taken 12 in a row since NBA rebound leader Dennis Rodman suffered a separated shoulder in a motorcycle accident. Rodman, whose 17.4 rebounds a game are five

Dikembe Mutombo, plans to return this week.

"We need Dennis. He's a key part of our team," Robinson said. "I like what we're building here."

The Spurs are making believers out of NBA rivals. "The Spurs are the number one team in the league right now," Los Angeles Lakers' coach Del Harris said.

"David Robinson is the guy

who should be making all the commercials. He's the Most Valuable Player in my mind." Seattle have been sparked by Gary Payton's 20 points a game and Shawn Kemp's 10 rebounds a maich. The Su-

the Suns have faltered. "We're playing well right now," Payton said. "If we are playing this way in the playoffs, we will be tough to beat. But you can't count out a team like Phoenix. We have taken advantage while they

perSonics bave risen while

were struggling. Seattle, Phoenix and Utah are fighting for the playoff positions behind the Spurs. The worst among them must face the resurgent Lakers, who have won 15 of their past 20 games. Their 47 victories are 14 more than they managed all of last season.

"We always stay positive," Lakers' guard Nick Van Exel said. "After a big loss last year, we had our heads down. This year, we're still

joking with each other." Reigning champion Houston have slumped despite 28 points a game from Hakeem Olaiuwon and 22 more from Clyde Drexler, but the Rockets could be dangerous in the playoffs.

Portland will likely grab the seventh western playoff bid while Sacramento, Denver and Dallas battle over the final spot. Denver snuck into the playoffs last year but ousted regular-season kingpin Seattle in the first round, a result that motivates the Sonies this time around.

"We're a lot more pre-pared," Payton said. "We've learned from that. It's not going to happen again. I promise you that."

Orlando (54-21) reigns among eastern clubs, with NBA scoring leader Shaquil-le O'Neal (29.5 points and 11.3 rebounds a game) and guard Anfernee Hardaway making the Magic a favourite even though they have never won a playoff game.
Indiana holds the upper

hand for the number two seed with New York likely to be third. The Knicks were one game away from a title last year but bave been inconsistent this season.

'We need to just basically blow teams out for the last eight games," Knicks' guard Anthony Bonner said, "We need to send a message because people don't think we're for real. It's like a joke even mentioning the Knicks going back to the NBA finals. That's something we're going to have to dispel real

"We've had an up-anddown year. We haven't beaten the quality teams when we have had an opportunity - Orlando, Indiana, Chicago — so nobody takes us seriously. We have to let it go and get ready for the

playoffs."
Charlotte appears set for the fourth slot and the unfortunate task of facing Michael Jordan-led Chicago in the opening round.

"It's up to us to control our destiny," Charlotte's Alonzo Mourning said. "We have the

talent to accomplish a lot." Cleveland and Atlanta will take the next two slots while Boston has the upper hand in a five-team fight for the final berth and the chance to open against Orlando. Whichever club survives will have a los-

### Romario's injury has Flamengo counting losses

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) -Barely a week without Romario, Flamengo is counting the

ways it misses its injured star. With the World Cup's MVP on the sidelines, the team has stumbled in the Rio De Janeiro Stafe Championship, lost the lead in the individual scoring race and watched contract offers evaporate.

"We can't hide the reality," said coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo. "We miss Romario a lot."

Romario pulled up lame in the 19th minute of a game last Wednesday against Gama of Brasilia for the Brazil Cup, a tournament of state 

minor muscle pull and Romario would be back within a week. But the lesion in his right thigh - his "shooting" muscle — proved to be more serious than suspected. His return now is sche-

duled for May 7, when Flamengo faces Vasco da Gama in the last game of the state championship finals,

Meanwhile, his club is counting its losses — aod struggling to stay on top. Since arriving from Spain's Barcelona in January for a reported \$4.5 million, Romario has turned things around for Flamengo, Bra-

club has become the team to beat in Rio. In March, Flamengo won the traditional Guanabara Cup, a qualifying round for the State Championship fin-

interest for this endeavour.

zil's most popular team. Af-

ter two mediocre seasons, the

als, in dramatic fashion, In the deciding game, Flamengo bet Botafogo 3-2 — with three goals by Romario.

Flamengo also won the other qualifying round, and began the eight-team roundrobin finals with 3 bonus

And much of the credit went to Romario. Despite a rash of off-field problems, including a separation from his wife and charges of hitting photographers and fans, Romario lived up to his billing as the world's top player.

After a slow start, he scored goals in flurries. By last week. Romario led the

with an

The Reverend John Melin, Pastor of the International

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Services will be in English.

scoring race with 19 goals, two more than Tulio of Bota-

fogo.
Ticket sales soared when Romario played. The boutique at Flamengo's headquarters reported a run on his No. 11 jersey. Offers for exhibition games poured in from

around Brazil and abroad, 'He's simply the best player in the world," said Romario's teammate and fellow World Cup champion Bran-

But then came the injury, and the well suddenly ran

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The market for writers is buse. Io The market for writers is huge. Io Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelances. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

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### **GOREN BRIDGE**

GO FOR BROKE

WITH OMAR SHARE & TANNAH HERSCH

ing lead: King of 4

There are many excellent com-puter programs for chess, but none for bridge. Artificial intelligence has not yet reached the stage where, on for bridge. Attmess tage where, on defense, the computer can work out the unseen values in partners hand to find the winning fine. We doubt any computer would find the currect defense here, although it might be able to improve on declarers play. South's jump to three hearts was invitational, not forcing. There's no the heart was the being preemptive, since the other three players have all dis-closed their values and a coe-bid would create a game force. North would create a game force. North had a borderline acceptance—the third trump and ruffing value in diamonds awang the belance.

West led the king of clubs and East encouraged with the eight. West decided to take time out to review the probable distribution of the unseen handle.

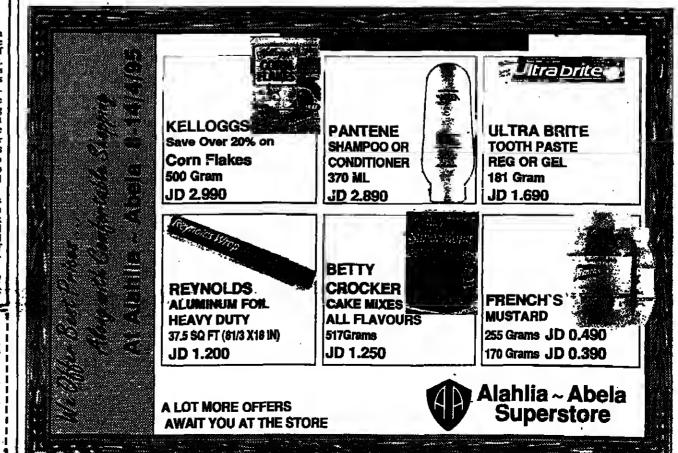
west decided to take time dut to review the probable distribution of the unseen hands.

South's jump in hearts guaran-teed at least a six-card suit and, more likely than not, the king in partner's suit. East had to have four which for the paice varying declares

the red suits and do so quickly.

The only hope for the defense to prevail was to find partner with the queen of diamonds, so, at trick two. West shifted to the king of diamonds. Declarer grabbed the see and led a trump. West took the ace and continued with the jack of diamonds. East did his part for the partnership by overtaking with the queen and returning the suit for West to ruff with the nine.

What went wrong? If declarer holds up the see of diamonds once, East-West's communications are severed and the contract can't be defeated. Try if.



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is closing date for submitting bids is to bours local time Thursday 4th ay 1995.

**Managing Director** 

p.m. please tof tender documents.

# Syria welcomes Japanese role on Golan, says Israel seeking illegal measures

DAMASCUS (Agencies) -Syria on Wednesday welcomed the prospect of Japanese participation in the U.N. peacekeeping opera-tion on the Israeli-held Golan Heights, the official agency SAÑA reported.

Foreign Ministry Farouk Al Sharaa told a Japanese fact-finding mission here that "Syria welcomes Japan's proposal concerning its future participation in the U.N. Disengagement Observer

Mr. Sharaa also renewed Syria's "commitment to the peace process, based on the principle of land for peace."

The Japanese delegation, comprising eight politicians from the ruling coalition of three parties, is in Syria to assess whether the country should provide troops to the U.N. force.

It was to visit the Golan Heights before travelling to Jordan and Israel and then returning to Japan on April

The United Nations has asked Japan to replace some 50 Canadian transport specialists in the 1,000-strong U.N. force deployed on the

Under Japanese law, the government is not allowed to send troops to areas where a ceasefire is not in force.

Syria's peace talks with Israel, launched in 1991, are stalled over the scope and timetable of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

On Tuesday, Mr. Sharaa accused Israel of trying to force illegal security mea-

"The stalemate in the peace process is caused by Israel's attempts to impose security concepts that are incompatible with the principles of international law." Mr. Sharaa was quoted by the state-run SANA news agency as telling a cabinet He said Israel's security

proposals contradict U.N. Security Council resolutions on a land-for-peace settlement, which formed the basis of the Middle East peace conference launched in Madrid, Spain, four year ago. Mr. Sharaa said Syria's

talks with U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross earlier this week centred around the principles of "equality and balance" in security arrangements.

"The peace process is being blocked because of Israel's attempts to impose its own concept of security and to obtain priviliges which contradict the U.N. Charter," Mr. Sharaa told the

cabinet meeting. Mr. Sharaa said security arrangements should be applied on both sides of the border line which separated Syria and Israel on the eve of the 1967 Middle East.

Mr. Sharaa said the Syrian position was relayed to Mr. Ross who held talks in Damascus on Saturday. He said that Damascus, "which has wide backing by the Arab people everywhere," would continue ro insist on its posi-

"Talks with Ross centred on the principles of balance and equality in security arrangement which should be applied on both sides of the June 4, 1967 line." Mr. Shar-

Diplomats said Israel was arguing that a small part of the Golan which was under Syrian control before the war belonged to what was Palestine decades ago and thus wanted to keep it.

"Sharaa's reference to the June 4, 1967 line has special significance because it showed that Damascus wants full return of all the lands which were under its control," one diplomat said.

# APC posts JD 24.4m net profit

AMMAN (R) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) said on Wednesday net profits rose I0.4 per cent to JD24.4 million in 1994.

Net profits in 1993 stood at JD 22.1 million. Company officials expect net profits to reach JD 35 million in 1995.

"Syria was and still is keen

to achieve a just and compre-

hensive peace on basis of the

U.N. resolutions and the land

for peace principle," Mr.

Mr. Ross bad over six

hours of talks with President

Hafez Al Assad on Saturday

on the possibility of expand-

ing the current Syrian-Israeli peace talks, held at ambas-

sadorial level, to group milit-

ary experts.

But the U.S. envoy, who

had talks later in Israel, said

no breakthrough was made to

bring in military leaders to

the faltering negotiations.

Syria said earlier on Tues-

day it was in no hurry to

agree a peace settlement with

Israel while Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin was still in

solution, Syria does not have

to accept deformed settle-

ments whether Rabin stayed

in power or left," Moham-mad Khair Al Wadi, chief

editor of the government dai-

ly Tishreen, wrote in an arti-

fror Syria to reach a peace

settlement with Israel wbile

Mr. Rabin, seen as a more

conciliatory leader, was still

in power. Israel's general

Later Wednesday the

Japanese delegation visited

The 22-strong delegation toured the U.N.-built village

of Camp Fawar which acts as

a beadquarters for the U.N.

Disengagement Observer

Forces (UNDOF) on the

strategic heights and held

talks with the head of the

force, Dutch General Johan-

the Golan Heights.

nese Kosters.

elections are due in 1996.

He was referring to calls

"Syria is not in a rush for a

Sharaa said.

The company's board will propose at its annual general meeting on April 25 a cash dividend of I80 fils per share for 1994 at a nominal value of one dinar, a drop from 200 fils distributed for 1993 re-

The enterprise, a key public shareholding company -57 per cent of shares owned the state - has minority holdings by a number of Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Production rose to 1.55 million tonnes in 1994 against 1.37 million tonnes in 1993, officials said.

Exports topped 1.52 million tonnes in 1994 against I.48 million tonnes in 1993, drawing on some stockpiles.

The company's sales target for 1995 is to top \$160 million from \$140 million in 1994, banking on a 13 per cent rise in potash production capacity to 1.75 million tonnes and forcasts for firmer world

Company officials base their higher projections on expectations potasb prices will rise \$4 dollars in the first half of 1995 and a similar rise in the second half of 1995 from a current \$110 per tonne due to rising demand.

Potash production rose to 362,000 tonnes in the first quarter 1995 from 321,000 tonnes in the same period last

Sales of potash also rose significantly to 378,000 tonnes from 262,000 tonnes in the first quarter of 1994. India was the company's

About 400 soldiers live in main client in the first quarter the camp in pre-fabricated of 1995, buying 90,000 tonhouses which include a nes, followed by Italy with medical centre, conference 60,000 tonnes. India contracted 600,000 tonnes for hall, tennis courts and a delivery in 1995.



A Bosnian Serb tank crew load their la. The international contact group tanks with shells at the frontline on was due to meet in Sarajevo for talks Majevica mountain overlooking the on peace as fighting flared on several north Bosnian U.N. safe zone of Tuz- fronts (AFP photo)

### U.S.-N. Korea nuclear talks resume in Berlin

BERLIN (Agencies) - Key talks to save a U.S. deal with North Korea to replace its nuclear reactors with safer ones will continue in Berlin Thursday, a U.S. spokesman

This latest round of talks in Berlin between the two sides began Wednesday, and they are scheduled to last at least until Friday,

The talks are aimed at consolidating an accord reached between the two sides in Geneva last October to replace North Korea's graphite-moderated reactors with two 1000-megawatt light-water (LWR) types which produce less plutonium, the ingredient of nuc-

lear bombs.

In the face of intense pressure from Washington, which suspected North Korea of seeking to make nuclear weapons, Pyongyang agreed to freeze its nuclear programme in exchange for the supply of replacement reactors and alternative fuel for domestic energy purposes during an

However, North Korea, citing political and safery reasons, has steadfastly refused to accept South Korea as the main supplier of the reactors, despite South Korean and U.S. insistence.

South Korea has agreed to meet around three-quarters of the total reactor replacement project cost of over \$4 billion.

An earlier round of talks between the two sides on the issue in Berlin last month was broken off ahead of schedule because of the failure to

As the talks got under way in Berlin, a statement from North Korea said: "If the United States attempts to test our will, forcing us to accede to its unreasonable stand ... this cannot be construed otherwise than an attempt to totally drive us our of the negotiation table.

Calling the Berlin talks a never-to-be-missed last chance, Pyongyang pre-"perilous consequif the negotiations

The U.S. chief negotiator Gary Samore, a senior aide to Assistant Secretary of State Robet Gallucci, who is Washington's top negotiator

He held two sessions with the North Korean delegation at the U.S. mission in eastern Berlin. The North Korean team is headed by chief fore-ign trade official Kim Jong-

Both sides declined to say whether any progress had been made after their first meeting.

The last round of talks in Berlin broke up on March 27 when both sides decided to consult their governments on new proposals to clear up a disagreement over the supply of reactors to the communist

content of the new proposals. The latest warning from Pyongyang was unlikely to faze the Americans who have regarded similar statements from North Korea in the past as part of its negotiating

Neither side disclosed the

strategy Despite the current stalemate in Berlin, diplomatic sources said Pyongyang may have signalled in March that it could agree to South Korea's involvement in the supply of reactors but only if it came under the strict control of a U.S. main contrac-

### Group sues Gad Al Haq over fatwa on female circumcision

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) on Wednesday sued the world's highest Sunni Muslim authority for encouraging female circumci-

"This is the first time a court case has been filed against the imam of Al Azhar," EOHR Secretary General Negad Borai told

The suit, which also names Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his premier for appointing the imam, was filed on Wednesday and will go to court on May 6.

The EOHR is demanding that Sbeikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq pays 500,000. Egyptian pounds (\$150,000 'as compensation for the moral damage" caused by a fatwa, or religious decree, made in October 1994.

The fatwa judged that "circumcision is a duty for men and women and if the citizens of a country refrain from ractising it, the imam should challenge them as if they were ignoring the call to prayer, the EOHR said in a statement.

The imam committed an error by disseminating untrue religious views which contravene the unanimous opinion of Islamic clerics and help to spread a deplorable social practice which is in fact an African pagan custom," the EOHR said.

The rights group said the fatwa was particularly dangerous because it came from Al Azhar, which "has the final say on all religious matters.

The damages are to go to population ministry to fimance a campaign by non-governmental organisations against female genital mutila-

The EOHR estimates that 3,600 girls are circumcised daily in Egypt.

"Islam does not allow any practise that constitutes harm to society," the organisation

"Many reputable doctors have affirmed the serious social and psychological harm caused by female genital mutilation," it added.

The EOHR stressed that

the Prophet Mohammad "did not circumcise his own daughters" and cited Islamic scholars who have shown that the practice has no religious basis — among the Egypt's Grand Mufti Sheikh Mohammad Tantawi.

The group alleged in its suit the Sheikh Gad Al Haq had wrongly asserted that certain hadiths, or sayings of the prophet, advocating male circumcision equally applied to women.

He also called for retaliation against opponents to the practice, tantamount to "a call to violent terrorist groups" and "incitement against the government," which has tried to ban circumcision.

The government backed off from a draft law banning the practice in October after the fatwa was issued.

Health Minister Ali Abdullah Fattah said he could not bar a "custom practiced for hundreds of years by 98 per cent of families in rural areas and a70 per cent of the urban population.

In Egyptian law female circumcision is permitted providing it is done in hospital. But mostly local "health barbers" perform it in unhygienic conditions in homes от outside at religious festiv-

### Royal flats for rent

LONDON (AFP) - The royal family is to rent out nearly 60 flats or homes which have been used up to ham Palace announced. A 33.50 C. now by servants, Buckingcottage in the grounds of Hampton Court, southwest of London, will be the first to be put on the market, followed by a flat in the chic Kensington Quarter of West erties should fetch Queen Elizabeth around £35,000 (\$56,000), the palace added. It said rents from the properties, none of them inside the security cordons of royal residences, will be used for the upkeep of royal buildings and allow for savings. The royal family currently has 265 flats and homes which it rents to staff at rents much lower than their market value. Buckingham Palace, however, hopes the measure will bring it in a total of between £400,00 (\$640.000) and £700,000 (\$1,120,000) a year.

### Diana to visit **Hong Kong**

LONDON (AFP) — Princess Diana, the Princess of Wales, will visit Hong Kong from April 21 to 23. Buckingham Palace announced late Tuesday. During her three-day stay, the princess will visit a drug rehabilitation unit, a cancer research and care unit and projects for the homeless, a spokesman said, "The princess wants to look and learn," the spokesman said, adding that the princess's programme in Hong Kong covered "issues she is closely involved with," in

### Patient cured by temporary insertion of artificial heart

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BERLIN (AFP) - For the '4 ... first time a heart patient has been cured by the insertion of an artificial heart for 160 days, the Betlin Cardiology Centre announced. If this method of treatment proves effective in the long-term. it could offer a new treatment for seriously ill patients, said Roland Hetzer, the centre's director. Matthias Linzmeier, 38, was admitted to hospital at the end of September last year. His heart condition meant he was short of breath and his lungs were full of fluid. In the absence of an available transplant, doctors connected bim to an artificial heart which pumped his blood, and eased the load in his own heart until it began to function properly. For five weeks Mr. Linzmeier has appeared well and can eat and move normally, according to the cardiology centre. Until now artificial hearts have been used only pending a heart transplant.

### **Burglars** loot top Indian minister's house

NEW DELHI (AP) — Burg-lars tied up a servant of India's top government minister and looted his house while eight armed guards slept, a news agency reported Tuesday. Details of the burglary at the home of Interior Minister S.B. Chavan were not immediately available, but United News of India news agency quoted unnamed police officials as saying no one bas been arrested so far-The armed robbers broke into the house Monday night. UNI said. The house is in Nanded, a town in central India. The minister and his family live in the capital, New

### Human foetuses on the menu in China

HONG KONG (AFP) Human foetuses are the latest health food fad in China with one state-run clinic giving them away to women who ing them away to women on consider them a tonic, with over Consider them a work with over Hong Kong newspaper said with over Wednesday. The foetuses to U.S. typically a few months old.; are the result of abortune conducted in Shenzhen conducted conducted in Shenzhen conducted in Shenzhen conducted conduct Kong. Eastern Express said in a report based on invest tigations by its sister maga-i zine, Eastweek. "They can] make your skin smoother. your body stronger, and are good for the kidneys," a doctor at the city's Sin Hua clinic was quoted as saying, adding the land of that she personally liked her that she personally liked her foetuses with pork soup.

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### CIA seeks funds for Iraq, Iran operations

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has asked Congress for \$19 million for covert operations in Iraq and Iran, the New York Times newspaper said Wednesday. Quoting unidentified administration officials, the daily said \$15 million would be spent to destabilise Iraq and another four million to curb Iran's expansionist ambitions. Designed to support the White House's stated policy goal of "dual containment," the funding for Iraq was aimed at weakening but not specifically overthrowing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and finance opposition groups in exile. While it is not known when CIA covert operation in Iran began, the intelligence agency's programme in Iraq started after the 1991 Gulf war expelled Iraq from Kuwait. Funding, however, was scaled back from \$40 million a year in 1992 to less than \$20 million after it became clear the programme had failed to weaken the Iraqi leader.

### Iraqi, Omani ministers hold talks

MUSCAT (R) — Iraqi Minister of Finance Ahmad Hussein Khudayyar held talks in Muscat on Wednesday, the second Iraqi minister to visit the sultanate in two months. Officials said Mr. Khudayyar met Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Minister Yousef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah. They did not give details. Mr. Khudayyar is in Oman to attend the annual meeting of Arab finance and economy ministers and central bank governors who head the Arab League's main financial and economic funds, the officials said. Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf had visited Oman and Oatar in March. Iraq's Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad Al Nabubi on Wednesday ended a visit to Oatar.

### Peres may visit two Gulf Arab countries

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres may make a ground-breaking visit to Qatar and Oman next week, officials said Wednesday. Mr. Peres himself said Sunday that he was to visit two Arab countries but he did not identify them. If confirmed it would be the first visit by a member of the Israeli government to Oatar. Oman hosted a visit by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in December and became the first Gulf Arab state to welcome an official Israeli delegation a year ago for a session of multilateral Middle East peace talks.

### China to send aid to Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — China is to give Iraq aid worth \$357,000 to help alleviate suffering under a United Nations trade embargo. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Shan Zai said Wednesday. Mr. Liu, quoted by the Iraqi daily Al Jumhuriya, said the aid was to help the Iraqi people. The minister, in Baghdad for talks about strengthening commercial ties between the two countries, was due to lead his country's delegation at a meeting of the joint Iraqi-Chinese cooperation commission.

### 'S. Arabia has 500,000 illegals'

RIYADH (R) - Saudi Arabia believes it has more than 500,000 illegal immigrants and is trying to persuade them to legalise their status or leave voluntarily, the newspaper Al Asharq Al Awsat said on Wednesday. "We want to resolve this problem quickly and in a humane manner," the Saudi-owned paper published in London quoted an unnamed senior official as saying. The newspaper said 250,000-350,000 illegal residents were repatriated last year.

### Iran seeks 'Islamic unity' with Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) - Iran called for "Islamic unity" with Sudan against the West as the two countries decided to establish a joint investment company on Wednesday. "We have to unite before our enemies. Islamic unity has to be created," Iran's Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri told the Sudanese national assembly. Iran and Sudan both "face vicious attacks from the West under false allegations that they support terrorism," the speaker said. "The West knows very well that the lofty message of Islam is innocent of such accusations," he said. The West was the real leader of terrorism and abuse of buman rights. Just as Hitler and Genghis Khan depended on war to control the world, America today is using the fileds of culture and the economy." He said the civil war in Sudan was a "plot to undermine the unity of this Islamic state" and reflects "the fears of the enemies of Islam."

### Sufi mystics seek to ban 'The Emigrant'

CAIRO (AFP) - Six million Sufi mystics have joined the attack on the latest film by Egyptian director Yousef Shahin, which Sunni Islam's highest authority and a Coptic Christian lawyer have already demanded be banned. The Supreme Council of Sufi Paths (SCSP) filed a law suit "in the name of its six million followers" before the Cairo appeal court to ban "The Emigrant," the council's lawyer Ibrahim Laban, told AFP Wednesday. The SCSP president, Sheikb Abmad Abdul Hadi Al Qasabi, filed the case because "this film is an affront to Islam and the Prophet Joseph," Mr. Laban said. SCSP Secretary General Sheikh Abdul Hamid Abdul Latif told AFP that "certain institutions and personalities asked us to intervene in the courts to support" the Islamist lawyer, Mahmoud Abu Al Faid, whose case against the film was defeated in March. Mr. Abdul Latif refused to name the groups that made the requests, adding that the SCSP was "a religious institution in charge of protecting moral values of Islam."

### France 'disappointed' over UNICEF job

PARIS (AFP) - France on Wednesday voiced European Union (EU) "disappointment" over the nomination Mon-day of American Carol Bellamy as head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). French foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque, whose country is current EU president, said France had done all it could for a European to be named to the job, adding that the 15 EU members were "by far the first contributors" to UNICEF. "Ir seemed to us that the time had come to give the post of UNICEF director-general to a European for the first time," Mr. Duque said, Following several weeks of behind-the-scenes wrangling, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Gbali announced late Monday that Peace Corps director Bellamy had been chosen to head UNICEF. The appointment thwarted the EU's attempt to wrest the top job from 50 years of U.S. control.

### Velayati defends Russian nuclear deal

ROME (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Wednesday defended Russia's proposed sale of nuclear technology to his country, saying it would not be used for military purposes. "Our commercial relationship with Russia is péaceful in nature," Mr. Velayati told Italian radio in a telephone interview from Tehran. He dismissed criticism of Russia's plan to build four nuclear reactors for Iran in a contract valued at between \$800 million and \$1 million. "We respect the norms of the international community and the rules of the International Atomic Energy Agency," he said. "We have signed the accord on nuclear non-proliferation and the agency has confirmed that our activity does out have military ends."

### Lebanon murder trial postponed

BEIRUT (AFP) - The trial of the Lebanese men over the 1976 murder of U.S. ambassador Francis Melloy was postponed here on Wednesday after defence failed to turn up, officials said. The trial was reopened at the request of the state prosecutor. Munif Uweidat, in March and held up until April to allow the defence to prepare for the case. Judge Muin Osseiran on Wednesday postponed the trial until June 7 after the defence lawyers for Bassem Mohammad Al Firah and Nameq Ahmad Kamel failed to appear in court on time. It would be the final delay, he said.

# Yousef says 'Zionist' was target in New York blast

CAIRO (AP) — Ramzi Yousef, the accused mastermind of the World Trade Centre bombing, suggested in an interview published Wednesday that the target of the attack was a "Zionist official" but refused to say whether he was involved.

In the interview with the Arabic daily Al Hayat. Yousef also suggested he knew perpetrator and supported the group that carried out the attack. He said American civilians were legitimate targets because their tax money supports what he called crimes committed by Israel against Palestinians.

"I don't want to emphasise the identity of the perpetra-tor as much as I'd like to emphasise this act is legal whether the explosion was aimed at the World Trade Centre itself or a Zionist who was targeted at the site," he

Asked if he meant an Israeli official was supposed to be killed in the bombing. he said, "a Zionist official was targeted for assassination at the time. He declined to give the

official's name. There has been no evidence that the bombing was an assassination attempt. Yousef, 27, was arrested last month in Pakistan and

extradited to the United

States. He is awaiting trial in

the February 1993 bombing that killed six people and injured more than 1.000. Mystery has surrounded his past, but Yousef was straightforward about his background except his expertise with explosives. He said he was training as an explosives expert but would not

say where or when he was

trained. He said his real name was Abdul Basit Al Balushi and he was born in Kuwait. He received a degree in electronics from Swansea University

His maternal grandmother was Palestinian, Yousef said. and his family is spread across Pakistan, Kuwait and the Palestinian territories. He, said he was married with two Asked if he considered

himself innocent in the World Trade Centre bombing, he replied: "It's 100 early to answer this question."
He added that his defence would be that it was legal to

attack American citizens for

their role in supporting

"This money is taken from the American taxpayers ... which makes the American people responsible for the crimes and settlements, torture and imprisonment," he

"It's not an excuse that the Americans say that they don't know where the tax money ... is going. he told the London-based daily at his jail in New York on Monday.

At another point he was quoted as saying, "I am only a supporter of the liberation army which claimed responsibility for the attack on the World Trade Centre.

"I support the objectives of the movement whether the attack on the World Trade Centre or others," he said. "I believe that the movement and the Palestinians at large have the full right to hit American targets because the United States is considered a pariner in the crimes perpetrated in Palestine."